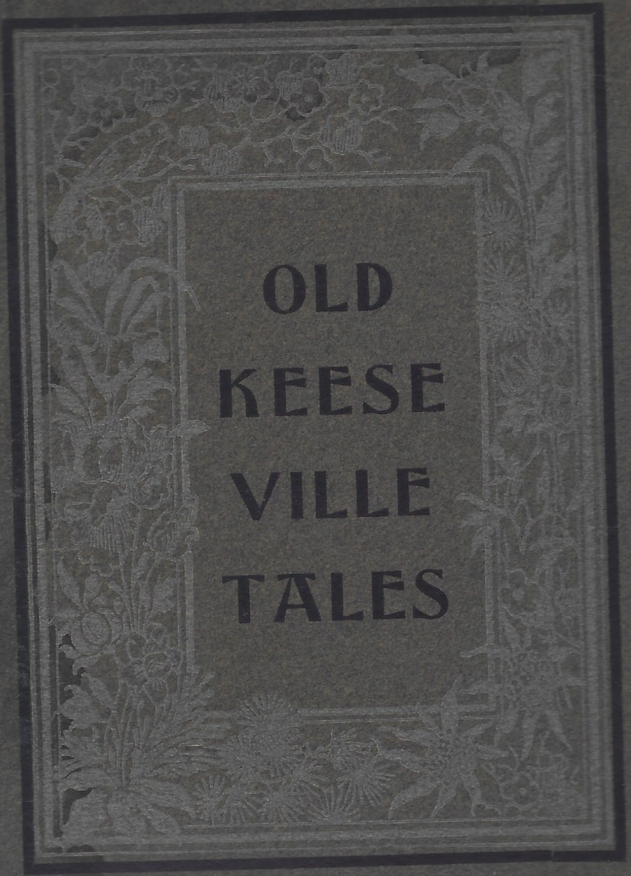
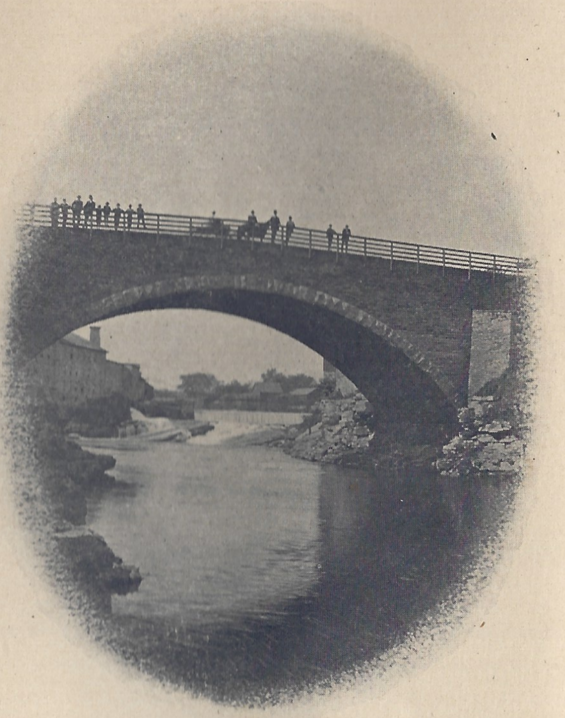


OLD KEESEVILLE TALES

Keeseville lies across the
Lake Champlain from
Binghampton, New York.

Keeseville, New York
a town in the Adironda
where my mother was
born, and from where
she was married to Rans
Newcombe Whitney
who was born in
Nelson, New Hamps
she was
(—Juliette Reynolds Whitne

Marie Newcombe
Whitney Potter



The Old Arch Bridge

The Rev. H. E.
Butler married
my maternal
grandparents,
Rensel Newcomb
Whitney and
Juliette Reynolds
Whitney
in Keeseville,
New York
on
May. 21st, 1872
in the Congregational
or
(Presbyterian)
(?)
Church
in Keeseville, N.Y.

THE ESSEX COUNTY PUBLISHING COMPANY
PORT HENRY, N. Y.

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FORE WORD

"OLD KEESEVILLE TALES" is a collection of letters and sketches solicited from the persons to whom credit is given, by the "Whatsoever" Circle of King's Daughters, and shared with the public at two readings given in the Congregational Church in March, 1900, for the benefit of the Circulating Library fund. The reminiscences proved of great interest, and their wider circulation in this form has been desired.

We need no assurance that former residents of Keeseville will be interested in this little volume, and we offer it to all its readers with the affectionate remembrance of the friends of "Auld Lang Syne."

The writers, to whom we are greatly indebted for prompt and kindly attention to our request, will pardon a few changes and omissions suggested by the permanence of print.

We received pleasant notes from Mrs. E. Whitney, of Minneapolis, known to early friends as Lizzie Seaton, and from Rev. Dr. A. P. Bissel, of Charlotte, N. C., both expressing warm remembrance of the town and its people, but nothing for publication. Mr. John Neher, of Troy, received the request too late, he thought, to furnish a chapter of recollections, but his generous gift of $25.00 proved a genuine interest still felt for his early home.

The article by Rev. Joseph Cook was written for this purpose, but was published by the Christian Advocate (New York) later. The history of the churches is not intended to reach beyond their beginnings, but many references come down to the present time.

At the occasion of the reading of these letters, old songs were sung, and old portraits were shown. The King's Daughters were gratified at the pleasure afforded the community, and at the handsome sum realized for the Library.

* * *

EARLIEST DAYS

THE early history of Keeseville is somewhat shrouded in darkness, or, at least, so intermingled with that of the villages of Clintonville, Peru and the Union, that it is difficult to find a beginning. Farmers seem to have settled all about the town—at Birmingham Falls, near Port Douglass, on the way to Clintonville, and, in fact, north, south, east and west of the town, before people began to locate in the village proper.

The wonderful water power of the Ausable river seems to have been the magnet which first attracted the attention of the pioneers of those early days, and we read that a certain Captain Jonathan Bigelow, about the year 1806 or 1807, foreseeing, with Yankee shrewdness, that the valley was a promising location for manufacturing interests, decided to erect a saw mill on the rapids, just above the lower bridge. He employed a German, by the name of Geo. Shafner, to blast the rocks in the river, preparatory to building a dam. This man built the first house in Keeseville—one of logs, near where the foundry now stands—where he lived and boarded his help till the dam was completed. Some time after, Robert Hoyle, an Englishman, and John W. Anderson bought the Bigelow property, and erected a grist mill, which they carried on in connection with an extensive lumber business.

The village at this time was known as "Anderson's Falls," but in 1812 Hoyle sold his interest to John Keese. Richard Keese, who lived at the "Union," soon after joined the enterprise, making the firm Keese, Anderson & Keese, and the name of the town was changed to Keeseville. This firm in 1815 built the house known as the "Betsey Hayes" place, now owned by Wm. McMahon, and, in the same year, a dwelling was erected where Dr. H. O. Tallmadge now resides, by Briggs Sherman, and also one on the opposite side of the street by Benj. P. Beach.

The first hotel, or tavern as it was then called, on the present site of Mould's block, was built by Robt. Hoyle, and kept by John W. Anderson, during the war of 1812. It was a quaint old wooden structure, only one story high, but quite long, with a covered "stoop" running along its entire front. They called it a "four story building, with the stories all on the first floor."

About the same time, a man by the name of Brown had a hotel on the former site of the Ausable House, and Forsyth ministered to the needs of travellers where the old Adirondack stood. The first store was also run by John W. Anderson, in one end of his hotel, and in 1826 Keese and Hurlbut built another, which they maintained for a number of years. Among other "firsts" Dr. Ralph P. Allen settled in the village in 1822, caring for the physical welfare of its inhabitants, and, about the same time, Ezra C. Gross and David McNeil came to attend to their legal wants. The first newspaper—the Keeseville Herald—was established in 1825, and published most of the time till 1841, by Anson H. Allen, who afterward owned and edited "The Old Settler."

If we may believe the records which have come down to us, Keeseville [illegible] years became a very busy town, having two extensive rolling [illegible] three nail factories, a machine shop, an axe and edge tool factory, a [illegible] furnace, and axletree factory, a horeshoe factory, a planing mill, two [illegible], and a nail keg factory.

Much more of interest in connection with our village and its people [illegible] to be told, but is it not all contained in the "Tales" which are to [illegible]

* * *

KEESEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Related by Reverend Stephen Taylor, of Bay City, Michigan, 87 years old, as told him by his father, and sent to Mr. Conant S. Taylor.)

I SEND a short history of the Keeseville Baptist Church, which was organized at the house of Uriah Palmer, on Bell's Patent, in the year 1791, when the country was all but an unbroken wilderness. It was missionary ground, and all the preaching they had came from the Boston Board of Home Missions. William Taylor, then a young [illegible], was chosen deacon, and held the office until his death in 1845. Meetings were held, alternately, on Bell's Patent and Ausable Chasm.

Conference meetings were held just the same, whether a minister was present or not. The society took the name of Peru Baptist Church, but when Keeseville became a little village the place of holding meetings was changed to a school house on the hill, near where the French Catholic Church now stands in the village of Keeseville; also, the name of the society was changed to the Keeseville Baptist Church.

When services were held at Ausable Chasm, Elder Parker Reynolds was chosen pastor. He served the church until his health failed. After his resignation, the next pastor was Ebenezer Mott. He was the first [illegible] of the Keeseville Baptist Church, and the first person he baptised was Justus Taylor (nephew of Deacon William Taylor). Justus Taylor afterwards became a Baptist preacher, and died in Tomah, Wis., in 1887, in the 83rd year of his age.

About this time the subject of building a church was agitated. A meeting was called of Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists, and there it was agreed that each denomination should circulate a subscription paper, and that denomination which had the largest amount subscribed should build the house, and the others would wait a more favorable time. When the subscriptions were brought in, it was found that the Baptists were ahead of [illegible] the others.

Whitney, Martha Strong, Nabby W. Strong, Hannah Adgate, Anna Adgate, Theodocia Arthur and Ruhamah Leavit, together with the Reverend Jonathan Hovey, pastor of the Church of Christ in Waterbury, and Reverend Jonathan Hovey, Jr., pastor of the Church of Christ in Waybridge, both of the State of Vermont, did meet at the dwelling house of Samuel Whitney in Chesterfield, with a view and for the purpose of forming a visible Church of Christ in the said town of Chesterfield. That after joint supplication at the throne of grace for light and divine assistance, the said Matthew Adgate and all others present did severally for themselves and publicly agree and sign in the presence of each other, a confession of their faith and belief in the Christian doctrine and scheme of salvation as contained in the Old and New Testaments, or Sacred Scriptures of truth, and did, likewise, at the same time and place, and in the presence of each other and said pastors agree and sign a covenant to regulate their lives, to watch and care for each other as a visible Church of Christ in the world.”

Thus was born, in a log house, almost a century ago, with earnest prayer from consecrated hearts, the Congregational Church of Keeseville.

From the date of its organization till 1820, meetings were held regularly on the Sabbath, for prayer and reading of sermons, at the home of Mr. Whitney, conducted for years by Judge Matthew Adgate, and, after his death, by Deacons Whitney and Barnes. Occasionally a minister from the Home Missionary Society of Vermont preached in the Port Douglas school house, the school building on Norton’s Hill, and also in School District No. 3, near the home of L. B. Davis.

In 1828 the church was located at Keeseville, then a small village just coming into notice, and for two years services were held in the “Old Yellow School House.” Reverend Solomon Lyman in 1829 became pastor of the church, whose membership during his ministry was largely increased. On Saturday, the 15th of July, 1830, the cornerstone of the old church edifice was laid, and the “First Congregational Church” had a local habitation and a name. After five years of labor Mr. Lyman resigned his charge, and Reverend A. L. Brinkerhoff was invited to supply the pulpit, which invitation he accepted, and remained with the church till 1838, when “it was voted unanimously to give the Reverend John Mattocks a call to be our pastor.”

Mr. Mattocks, then a young man of but twenty-four, of more than ordinary talent and fine education, threw himself into the work with all the enthusiasm of youth, and so grew into the heart and love of his people that to many of them he was the one minister whose place was never filled, and his influence, especially over the young men of his congregation, remains to the present day, and has borne abundant fruit in many noble and useful

[illegible] during his pastorate, in 1851, that the present church edifice [illegible]

* * *

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[illegible] (in an old file of the Essex County Republican) that, [illegible] “the people called Methodists,” having worshipped for [illegible] years in school houses which stood on the present sites of [illegible] educational buildings, decided to build “a meeting [illegible] there was some not altogether agreeable controversy about [illegible] John Macomber (father of the late Nelson Macomber) [illegible] warned them that they would change their minds in a few [illegible] overruled, he yet contributed the most liberally of any [illegible] the fund, but said he “must not be asked to pull it down.” [illegible] Protestant worship, as well as the others, was first built [illegible] of the Protestant churches have come down into the valleys. [illegible] an unpainted frame building, was on the summit of Port [illegible] near what is now known as the Bliss place. The lane in [illegible] as Church alley, and is now called Church street. [illegible] the society (never called a “church” then) were soon [illegible] their situation.

[illegible] a long, blue covered, record book, preserved in the [illegible] on whose fly leaf this record is made: “This station [illegible] Reverend Elijah Crane was appointed to it that [illegible] in 1829 by the Reverend Parmalee Chamberlain, [illegible] Merritt Bates.”

[illegible] this last pastorate that the building was placed on the [illegible] following account of the man, and extracts from his [illegible] They are furnished by his son, Morgan Bates, of [illegible] is hereby acknowledged. Reverend Mr. Bates [illegible] to Keeseville, having married the sister of a once [illegible] Thomas A. Tomlinson. He had some, at least, of “all [illegible] Howards,” in his veins, for his mother bore that name, [illegible] origin beyond the Norman conquest. He served many [illegible] in the Troy Conference, and was very prominent in the [illegible] which divided the Methodist Church in Keeseville, [illegible] secession taking place when the Wesleyan Church [illegible] in 1843. Mr. Bates was so pronounced in his opinions [illegible] that he was more than once the victim of mob violence.

He died in Traverse City, Michigan in 1869. He was but twenty-five [illegible] old when appointed to Keeseville, and when this diary was written. [illegible] was re-appointed to this church in 1844, and a very extensive [illegible] crowned his labors.)

Thursday, July 21, 1831—There is a good work of grace [illegible] here. My head, my heart, my hand are full of business. [illegible] trying to get our meeting house moved.

July 22—Brother Whitcomb, one of our principal members, is [illegible] point of death. The ways of Providence are dark in many respects.

July 27—This station is in a critical condition. Our mission [illegible] be to the poor.

August 4—Went to Plattsburgh. The church there was [illegible] to-day. Brother Ferguson preached.

August 8—There is a fine prospect of having our church [illegible] what it should be. I have already more than $600. We want about [illegible] I believe the hand of the Lord is in this matter.

August 20—It occurred to me this evening that we might about [illegible] build our meeting house of stone as of wood. It would be a singular [illegible] cumstance if, instead of moving the house down the hill as it stands, [illegible] should get a new one built of stone, and situated in the best place [illegible] village.

August 22—We met and reorganized as a body corporate, and [illegible] pointed an entire board of trustees. The title assumed at their [illegible] organization was not correct. The trustees resolved to buy a lot that [illegible] cost more than $300.

August 23—My mind is much taken up with the meeting house [illegible] felt it was my duty to take hold of it, and now I feel it is my duty [illegible] that it is pushed ahead.

August 24—The trustees met this morning and resolved to [illegible] stone house. They contracted with the mason for $740, and with [illegible] carpenter, including the old house, for $640. The plastering and [illegible] of the basement story are not included in this calculation. It is [illegible] surprising how this business has progressed. There is now a prospect [illegible] our having a first-rate house in the very best place in the village.

August 28—I am cast down. I have been so engaged getting [illegible] meeting house along that I have neglected my studies. [His rule was [illegible] rise at 3 a. m., winter and summer, and study until breakfast hour.)

October 6—The walls of our church being raised to the top of the [illegible] ment, the cornerstone of the upper part was laid to-day. Brother [illegible] (Ferguson?) distinguished himself by his noble liberality; also [illegible] H. (Hayes?).

This was the building burned on Sunday, March 24, 1878, of [illegible] the pastor then in charge, Rev. J. J. Noe, tells in one of these letters.

In 1852 Rev. William Griffin was appointed to this church, and at [illegible] expiration of his two years' term (the limit then) he was made [illegible] elder of Plattsburgh District. Mrs. Griffin was possessed of large [illegible] and the husband and wife "devised (and executed) liberal things" [illegible]

[illegible] under his care. They loaned this one money for repairs in [illegible] with interest, amounted to $700. Solomon Cleaves, (whose [illegible] that of an absolutely just man, and so is "blessed,") as a [illegible] signed a contract for a deed "on demand," covering the par-[illegible] That document is found in a church record, with this [illegible] upon it: "This bond was given up by Doctor and Mrs. [illegible] and was sent to Brother Cleaves as a Christmas present December, [illegible]

[illegible] men who have served this church as pastors in these [illegible] years, but eight are known to be living. But few aged [illegible] and the history of the church is fast taking on the char-[illegible]" and little known. But in the day of rewards, when [illegible]" and woman, redeemed and glorified, shall say, "We [illegible]" these names will be found in the Book of Remembrance.

MARY F. BIGELOW.

* * *

FRENCH CHURCH

[illegible] October, 1853, the French Canadians and the Irish formed [illegible] congregation, when rapidly increasing numbers decided the French population to have a church of their own. As the old [illegible] Church on "Academy Hill" was for sale, they bought [illegible] the consecration of the building, the ceremony of the blessing [illegible] performed with solemn and imposing services.

[illegible] was specially fortunate in its first priest, Reverend [illegible] from Lyons, France, a man of great learning, broad, liberal [illegible] of disposition and sauvity of manner, in short, an ideal [illegible] gentleman. He and Reverend John Mattocks became warm [illegible] friends, and the friendship lasted while both remained in the [illegible]

[illegible] trustees were Oliver Anger and Mark Pasha, men of ability [illegible] character, having at heart the best interests of the church, [illegible] whose care it greatly prospered.

[illegible] was succeeded in 1856 by Father Ruiz, who started a [illegible] for Catholic boys, but, for some reason, the school was not [illegible] and was soon given up. In 1858 Father Labarbachon took [illegible] parish, remaining till 1865, when he was followed by Father [illegible] Each of these priests, in his own way, did honor to the new [illegible] more or less in its gradual improvement. Debts were paid, church property added to, and growing numbers filled the [illegible] overflowing.

In the lapse of years, many things of interest in the life of a [illegible] organization pass by unnoticed and are forgotten, but surely the [illegible] Church of Keeseville will never forget the zeal and heroic sacrifices [illegible] members which brought it to its present state of prosperity, and [illegible] future continues the blessings of the past we can ask no more.

MME WOLCOTT

❦ ❦ ❦

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

ST. Paul's Church, Keeseville, was organized January, [illegible] F. C. Putnam. The first service held was on Christmas [illegible] 1852. In the spring of 1853 the property, which was held by [illegible] Oliver Keese and Andrew Thompson, was deeded to the [illegible] the members of which were: Wardens, Andrew Thompson and [illegible] Keese; vestrymen, Caleb D. Barton, James Rogers, Charles M. W[illegible] Joseph Parks, L. A. Hasbrouck, Samuel Ames, Charles Allen, [illegible] Allen. Reverend Mr. Putnam remained in charge eight years, leaving [illegible] the fall of 1861, and was succeeded by Reverend Mr. Trivett of [illegible] keepsie, who was in charge until the fall of 1862. The church was [illegible] closed until the spring of 1864, when Reverend Wm. Cook, of [illegible] Canaan, Connecticut, was called to the rectorship, and remained until [illegible] spring of 1878.

MRS. H. O. TALLMADGE

❦ ❦ ❦

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

HERE is a package of old letters, worn and yellow with [illegible] and tied with a piece of faded ribbon. Let us see what there [illegible] them. They were written by a Yankee schoolmaster, [illegible] seventy years ago, while teaching in northern New York, [illegible] are addressed to his friends among the granite hills of New Hampshire. At that time the use of envelopes was unknown; but, instead, full [illegible] foolscap paper was used, and a part of one page left blank, so as to [illegible] when folded, a place for the superscpription. The postage in those days—seldom or never prepaid—was indicated by figures written by the postmaster [illegible] right hand corner, above the address. The figures on these [illegible] the postage on some was eighteen and three-quarter cents, [illegible] it was twelve and one-half, rates which to us seem exorbitant; [illegible] to say that no money from the family exchequer was more [illegible] than was the postage on those letters of the Yankee school-[illegible] had gone out from his boyhood's home to seek his fortune in [illegible] settlements of northern New York. The brief extracts [illegible] a glimpse of the condition of affairs in this section of the [illegible] those early days.

[illegible] is a letter dated "Ausable Forks, April 15, 1829." It is [illegible] with red ink, and in a business-like hand,) "Russia Iron [illegible] postage, eighteen and three-quarter cents. The writer [illegible] keeping school—have been keeping two weeks, and am [illegible] months or one year—in the grand village of Ausable Forks, [illegible] miles from Keeseville, up the river, in the town of Jay; not a [illegible] but a growing place. It is but three years since the first house [illegible] there are two or three stores, a public house, iron [illegible] mills. There is a large amount of the best quality of [illegible] vicinity, and five miles away is the Peru ore bed. I expect [illegible] to be a great business place. It derives its name, [illegible] from the junction of the east and west branches of the [illegible] We some expect a road will be built from Keeseville, [illegible] near here, to St. Lawrence county—fifty miles to the [illegible] The petition is already before the Legislature—has already [illegible] Assembly, or House of Representatives, with an appropriation [illegible] and there is not much doubt of its going through.

[illegible] located just on the confines of civilization, surrounded with [illegible] Scotch and Irish, with now and then a Yankee—and log [illegible] abundance. I am boarding in a log house, in a Dutch family [illegible] a dozen children—homesick enough! A saw mill going on one [illegible] hammer on another, and another log house on a third. When [illegible] to commence my school a gentleman asked me to dine with [illegible] the invitation, and behold, he took me to a two-story log [illegible] I was warmly welcomed by the inmates, of whom there were [illegible] of all descriptions. Casting my eye out of the window, [illegible] standing at the corner of the house; a little farther on [illegible] old log hut, occupied by two or three families, with one side [illegible] in. The occupants of still another appeared as if they [illegible] from another planet, or, perhaps, down from some of the [illegible] mountains, whose summits rise into the regions of the clouds. [illegible] you wish you could live here?

"We have a few elegant buildings, some capacious stone houses, [illegible] some of the best of people; as good people here, and as fine girls, as you [illegible] in your section; a fine Dutch girl where I board—sweet little [illegible] modest little thing as ever you saw!

"My school house is pleasantly located on the bank of the [illegible] little way out of the village. Business is very dull in this country. [illegible] where money is scarce. Iron and lumber are low. The iron [illegible] very tardy in their movements on account of the scarcity of money."

"Ausable Forks, August 14, 1829.—The contemplated road, [illegible] mentioned to you in my first letter after my arrival here, is now being [illegible] It is yet uncertain about its coming within a mile of this village; [illegible] I think it will be a benefit. It goes from the lake, opposite [illegible] through to St. Lawrence county. People have been examining, [illegible] constantly taking up, land lying on the road, some good and [illegible] poor."

Next comes a letter dated:

"Keeseville, April 28, 1830.—I am now teaching school in [illegible] began this week. I expect you know of the place, although [illegible] saw it. It is a very decent village, in which there are now two [illegible] and I expect it is soon to have another. * * * Last evening [illegible] the celebrated Lorenzo Dow preach, who has travelled all over the [illegible] almost. He is a singular character, and is celebrated for his [illegible] He looks like a Jew; does not shave, but wears a long beard, [illegible] inches in length; he is equally odd otherwise, especially in dress. [illegible] nothing but I may stay here through the season."

"Keeseville, June 1, 1830.—As to my school, I have fifty [illegible] scholars, and am in school from 8 a. m. to near 6 p. m. There [illegible] schools in the place besides; an academy, another district school, [illegible] family school. They serve as a spur to each other, and are all very [illegible] schools, I believe; however, the academy is small as to number of [illegible] If I should teach through the winter here I shall most likely have [illegible] large school, and my wages will be much better. The school [illegible] accommodate ninety or 100 scholars, tolerably comfortable. It is [illegible] how long I shall stay here—am engaged for no particular time [illegible] six months if all are satisfied.

"This village is pleasantly situated on both sides of the [illegible] and is a place of considerable business. There are several iron [illegible] ments, also lumber mills and other machinery. There has been [illegible] addition to the village, perhaps a dozen houses, lately built, and [illegible] about to be built, some expensive, and all respectable.

"Grain is very high here now; no wheat; corn is worth [illegible]

[illegible] rye the same. The home production is not equal to the [illegible] at this season grain is generally scarce. This section is [illegible] country, especially in Essex county, it being much [illegible] county, next north of here, is far better as to soil, [illegible] with any part of this northern section. However, much [illegible] the tiller of the soil."

"[illegible] September 30, 1830.—My school will be out here in two [illegible] they intend to engage me to keep through the winter, but [illegible] of about $17 per month and be boarded. Perhaps [illegible] willing to pay it."

"[illegible] 1830.—I have recommenced school, and have kept one [illegible] health and spirits."

"[illegible] 1831.—I have a large school and some very good scholars, [illegible] pretty hard, but my health is very good."

"[illegible] February 4, 1832.—I am still teaching, and expect to [illegible] months longer. We have had good sleighing most [illegible] good now as ever was, and business is lively. I wish [illegible] You would think you were in a city, teams [illegible] that you can hardly pass. There is more business [illegible] than in all Sullivan county in a month."

"[illegible] I am yet teaching and expect to be for some [illegible]

"[illegible] It is a general time of health here, though the Asiatic [illegible] where it is very destructive, and there have been a [illegible] which have produced great alarm here and all through [illegible] are taking every precaution to prevent its spread- [illegible] The anxiety about the cholera and the scarcity [illegible] gloomy times here. The books of the Keeseville [illegible] a week ago, and $325,000 have been subscribed, so [illegible] money somewhere."

[illegible] leave of the village schoolmaster, merely remarking [illegible] he exchanged the ferrule for the yard stick, and [illegible] clerk for B. Ketchum, in a store for the sale of general [illegible] three years later he bought out his employer's [illegible] this time, continuing the business alone, John W. [illegible] we have been quoting) became one of Keeseville's [illegible] successful merchants. In 1838 he married a (step) [illegible] employer. After residing here about twenty years [illegible] to Peru, and in 1858 removed to Chicago with his [illegible] of his wife and six childeren. There he spent the remainder of his days, engaged in mercantile pursuits, until [illegible] was gathered to his fathers, at the ripe age of eighty-three [illegible] venerable widow still resides in Chicago, surrounded and [illegible] for by her grown-up sons and daughters, and a devoted [illegible]

SIXTY YEARS AGO

REMINISCENCES OF A SCHOOLBOY

IT was in October, 1839, that the writer, then a boy of [illegible] arrived in Keeseville for the purpose of going to [illegible] making himself generally useful about the house and [illegible] of Keeseville's leading and prosperous merchants.

Keeseville was then a busy, thriving village, its leading [illegible] being its iron manufactures—trip-hammer works, rolling mills [illegible] factory being in full operation. A lumber mill near the upper [illegible] its gang of twenty-four saws, was turning out lumber with [illegible] rapidity from an immense supply of logs floated down from the [illegible] and covering the surface of the river above the mill as far as the [illegible] reach. There was also a cotton mill, one or two grist mills, a [illegible] a brewery, besides the numerous mechanical shops and stores. [illegible] the active business men were the Kingslands, Edmund, Jacob and [illegible] Judges Richard and Oliver Keese; Judge Fiske and his son, [illegible] Richard and Oliver Peabody, Caleb D. Barton, Henry Granger, [illegible] J. Whalling, Henry Green and Mr. Hurlburt. The lawyers were [illegible] A. Simmons and Caleb (or was it Lemuel?) Stetson; the leading [illegible]cians, Doctors Fox and Jones; T. A. Tomlinson was in [illegible] Andrew Thompson was cashier of the bank. There were two [illegible] (later known as the Adirondack) was in charge of Mrs. [illegible] other, where now stands the Ausable House, was kept by M. [illegible] Both were wooden buildings, and have since been rebuilt. [illegible] Colbeck was the tailor, J. Barber the shoemaker, W. H. [illegible] apothecary.

There were two newspapers, the Herald, by A. H. Allen, [illegible] Settler fame, and the Republican, by W. Lansing. One first of [illegible] Republican perpetrated an April fool hoax on its readers by [illegible] with a sensational editorial detailing certain warlike depredations [illegible] claimed were being committed on the Canada border. The [illegible] being fresh in the minds of the public, people were the more ready [illegible]

[illegible] true, and, though the editorial wound up with a [illegible] to the first day of April, many of its readers did not [illegible] excitable individuals were just ready to get out their [illegible] amusement of the cooler heads who saw the point.

[illegible] (1839-40) four schools in the village; two district [illegible] under the principalship of I. N. Gregory, and a [illegible] by Mr. and Mrs. Wardner, in a house located on the [illegible] street. It was in the latter, that the writer com- [illegible] course in the Keeseville schools, soon graduating to [illegible] the brick house on the common, then in charge of [illegible] was reputed to be an excellent teacher. Mr. Moore [illegible] by Mr. Wardner, who abandoned his private school [illegible] position. Just over the way was the old stone academy; [illegible] the roadway up past the common was the "bloody [illegible] was fought many a stubbornly contested battle between [illegible] schools, from fortifications of snow constructed on

[illegible] R. W. Smith took charge of the academy, with I. N. [illegible] Mr. Smith was a jovial, good-natured teacher, who [illegible] getting good work out of his pupils; and under his ad- [illegible] academy attained a higher state of prosperity than it had [illegible] enjoyed.

[illegible] boys of about this period were the Forsaiths—James, Oliver [illegible] Arnold, Oliver Keese, Jr.; Henry, James and Hur- [illegible] and Charles Ames; Josiah Powers, Singletary Whit- [illegible] Sylvester and Milton Sawyer; Nathan Hurlburt; [illegible] Arthur; Ralph Barber; Edwin Prescott; Edgar, [illegible] Bushnell; Frank and Earl Powers; George Potter, [illegible] Harvey; Edgar Brown, George Brewer, Justinian [illegible] Holden; George Cleaves and Myron Ticknor, with [illegible] names do not occur to me now. Does some one ask [illegible] history of these boys? The writer knoweth not; [illegible] over the face of the earth. Doubtless many have [illegible] unknown! Some may have served their country in the [illegible] in unknown graves. A few perhaps, remain in the en- [illegible] ancestral acres, with friends around them to smooth the [illegible] declining years.

[illegible] four churches—the Presbyterian, the Baptist, (then locat- [illegible] the Methodist on River street, and the Catholic on the [illegible] Rev. John Mattocks was the minister of the Presbyterian [illegible] a fine appearing man, besides being an eloquent and forcible preacher. A text of his still rings in the ears of one of his [illegible] hearers,—"Be sure your sins will find you out." In his Sunday [illegible] day copies of a Sunday school paper were shown with a view of [illegible] subscribers. Mr. Mattocks said a good word for the paper, [illegible] the children to subscribe; for though it was a Methodist paper, [illegible] Methodist house, he was not afraid to have his Sunday school [illegible] read it.

There was but one cemetery on the Ausable side, the [illegible] which was nearly opposite the brick school house on the common. [illegible] small in area, and already was becoming well filled with habitat[illegible] dead. Here in this ancient burial place,

> "Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
> Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
> The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

According to a custom there prevailing, whenever a death [illegible]

> "They went and told the sexton,
> And the sexton tolled the bell."

First an alarm was rung to announce that a life had gone out, [illegible] a succession of strokes was given to indicate the age of the [illegible] This custom may still prevail in some sections, but in densely [illegible] communities it has gone out of use. The daily papers make [illegible] necesary.

A familiar scene that lingers in the memory, is that of the [illegible] of Jimmie Lowe, as he went tripping across the common at a lively [illegible] ring the bell of the Baptist church for 12 o'clock, noon, or 9 at night. [illegible] knew to a second when to start to be at the rope on the tick of the [illegible] He was a man well advanced in years, unmarried, of quiet but [illegible] habits, and lived alone at his shop, adjoining the academy lot. [illegible] life was a mystery. It was said that he kept in his shop, always [illegible] ness, "the narrow cell" for use whenever the time should come for [illegible] "shuffle off this mortal coil."

Another quaint and well remembered character was "Crazy [illegible] (the only name by which he was commonly known). He was a [illegible] inoffensive person who did occasional jobs of work about the village, [illegible] as sawing wood, and lived alone in a shanty in the edge of the woods [illegible] back of the academy. Doubtless some charitably disposed person [illegible] him shelter during the winter.

"Black Ben" and his wife Tamar were useful and respectable [illegible] bers of the community,—the former being a skilful and expert [illegible] whitewash, while his worthy spouse was equally proficient as a [illegible] earner in answering calls in various cases of household emergency [illegible] the villagers. Their residence was a palatial slab shanty located [illegible]

[illegible] at the first parting of the ways of the road to Peru, and within [illegible] of Evergreen cemetery. In front of the door was usually [illegible] wood, dug from the surrounding sandy soil, which [illegible] fuel, but often of an evening for light in place of the [illegible] and petticoat lamp then in common use. Standing in [illegible] Ben was giving orders with an air of authority to his [illegible] half as she was departing down the road in the direction [illegible] his pompous harrangue with increasing emphasis [illegible] Do you hear?" "Yeas," was the reply, "I hear ye, but I [illegible]

[illegible] campaign of 1840 was fought with unexampled spirit [illegible] by both political parties. The whigs in convention at [illegible] nominated William Henry Harrison, of Ohio, for President [illegible] of Virginia, for Vice President. Martin Van Buren, [illegible] the presidential chair, was up for a second term. The [illegible] an important stamping ground for the politicians, and [illegible] in Keeseville, as everywhere, was red-hot. No boy, [illegible] beyond his mother's apron strings, but knew the log [illegible] by heart, and not only knew, but could sing them too, [illegible]

[illegible] lot between the hotel—now the Ausable House—and [illegible] street an immense log cabin was built and a lofty [illegible] At one end of the cabin was a huge fire-place and chim[illegible] laid crosswise, cob-house fashion, and covered with [illegible] a rough door with "wooden latch and hinges rude," the [illegible] typical of the early days of the western settler. [illegible] meetings were nightly held, in which log-cabin songs [illegible] of the campaign discussed and, between the acts, [illegible] hard cider tested!

[illegible] September, the anniversary of Perry's victory on Lake [illegible] for a convention at Keeseville, to ratify and approve [illegible] "Tippecanoe and Tyler too!" It was unquestionably [illegible] in the history of the village. There were log cabins on [illegible] all the paraphernalia of the back-woods; canoes, thirty or [illegible] drawn by six horses and filled with ladies—the word "Tip[illegible] displayed on either side of the improvised vehicle. [illegible] these and many similar features, there was a long pro[illegible] on horseback, composed of people from all the neigh[illegible] with banners and devices innumerable, both humorous and [illegible] there were speakers from afar to entertain the crowds [illegible] on the common. The writer still has one of the white satin badges gotten up for the occasion, bearing besides the [illegible] candidates, the inevitable log cabin and other patriotic devices [illegible] ments. Carefully laid away with it is a well thumbed copy of [illegible] Cabin Songster" and a "Life of Gen. William Henry Harrison [illegible]

The bridge over the river near the centre of business was [illegible] built of wood, and had seen its best days. About 1843 it was [illegible] build a new one of stone, to consist of one arch, the material to be [illegible] in the immediate vicinity. The old bridge was removed, a [illegible] structure of timber built to receive the stone work, and one heavy [illegible] stone for the arch had been laid with keystone complete, and [illegible] lighter course about half completed, when, without the slightest [illegible] the whole structure—wooden frame work, stone arch and all [illegible] into the river together! Just before the fall the workmen, seeking [illegible] from a smart shower, had left their work till the shower should [illegible] and there being no one on the bridge, no lives were lost. The [illegible] in the stone work so poisoned the water that bushels of fish [illegible] been taken by hand from the water below.

One of the saddest events in Keeseville's annals was that [illegible] when the first suspension foot bridge went down under the [illegible] of a company of soldiers and its crowd of followers. The river [illegible] was a raging flood, having become swollen by recent heavy [illegible] supports of the bridge gave way at the southerly end, and [illegible] work struck the water (being fortunately held fast at the [illegible] it swung around near to the Ausable shore so that the people [illegible] were rescued But a number of persons were precipitated into [illegible] to be swept to instant destruction; while others clung to the [illegible] merged iron work in the middle of the river, most of whom by [illegible] the iron chains were able to work their way to the shore, [illegible] three, becoming exhausted, dropped off one by one only to be [illegible] the dam to their death. Eight or ten persons in all lost their [illegible] while heroically endeavoring to save others. Among the victims [illegible] sad disaster were two bright, promising boys, ten or twelve years [illegible] sons of Richard H. Peabody and Martin Pope, who were said to [illegible] seen to go over the dam clasped in each others arms.

Such are some of the scenes and impressions left in the [illegible] writer by a four years' residence in Keeseville during his boyhood. [illegible] memories of youth cling to one through life. Happy he whose [illegible] been cast in pleasant places, and whose early environments were [illegible] to have

> "Deposited upon the silent shore
> Of memory, images and precious thoughts
> That shall not die, and cannot be destroyed."

SCHOOL DAYS IN KEESEVILLE

FIFTY YEARS AGO

[illegible] time there was a boy named John, who lived in a [illegible] out in the country. In the summer, he did chores, [illegible] drove the cows to pasture and made himself as use-[illegible] boy generally does. In the winter with other boys [illegible] neighborhood, he went to the district school. In the course [illegible] all the sums in arithmetic, spelled Webster's spelling [illegible] through, passed a whole lot in "Pollock's Course of [illegible] badly and rapidly for two winters in the Rhetorical [illegible] having done everything required for graduating from the [illegible] licking the School-master, his school days came to [illegible] old weather beaten school house, with its pretty girls, [illegible] blackboards and old square box stove.

[illegible] it was decided, the family in solemn conclave assem-[illegible] should be finished off educationally by a winter or two at [illegible] great school of the village of Keeseville.

[illegible] one morning in November, about 1849 or 1850, John [illegible] school books and trudged over the road to the Academy—[illegible] two and one-half miles. John was a little early and, [illegible] was surprised to find himself alone in the big school [illegible] to contain at least a dozen school houses like the one [illegible] room was filled with desks that opened upwards with a [illegible] end was a stage three feet high and about fifteen by [illegible] the rear where John stood was a similar stage, a little [illegible] few minutes the boys and girls—perhaps we should say [illegible] and ladies—began to flock in, and presently the [illegible] H. Gregory, came rushing along in a bustling, hurried [illegible] his seat at the desk on the large platform. John march-[illegible] and introduced himself. Mr. Gregory received him very [illegible] him to take any seat he found unoccupied. John chose [illegible] of the room on the west side. At nine o'clock the [illegible] during which the scholars took their seats, and the [illegible] would say now, walked in with a very dignified air and [illegible] other side of the Principal. In the center was Mr. Greg-[illegible] height, a little inclined to corpulency and who wore [illegible] right hand was Miss Jane Gregory, the French teacher, [illegible] looking woman of about thirty, with a decided French [illegible] and actions that accorded well with her calling. Next [illegible] Emily Dunbar Gregory, the teacher of vocal music, tall, [illegible] On the left were Miss Hattie Gregory, general assistant, who resembled her brother in a very marked degree, and [illegible] Potter, the Primary teacher. Mr. Gregory made a nice little [illegible] out the new scholars, assigned them to their classes, and [illegible] recitations. Then the teachers gave out lessons to the various [illegible] school was dissmissed for the day, and John went home to [illegible] sons for the morrow.

It was, perhaps, a couple of weeks before John had time to [illegible] and see where he was and what he was at. He found nearly [illegible] pupils in the school, exclusive of the primary department. [illegible] lived in the village, but there was quite a sprinkling of country [illegible] girls among them. The scholars outside the village, at this [illegible] remembers them, were Allen P. Bissell, who had the reputation [illegible] the most studious scholar in the school, Davis G. Moore, his [illegible] mate, Winslow C. Watson and Joshua Whitney, who, like [illegible] new arrival. These were from the town of Chesterfield. [illegible] Peru and Ausable were represented by Richard P. Keese, [illegible] and Harvey Gove. Of the young ladies, Miss Susan [illegible] Mary D. Keese comprise all the out of town girls that John [illegible] The more prominent of the village boys were John and Harvey [illegible] Myron and Edwin Ticknor, Hurlburt and Josiah Keese, [illegible] Alfred Kingsland, Martin Hayes and Jack Holden. Of the [illegible] were Jennie Granger, Carroll Griswold, Hattie Barber, [illegible] Ann Jane Cleaves, and a class of older ones, who were finishing [illegible] year in school, and were looked upon with a great deal of respect [illegible] by John. Their principal studies seemed to be French and [illegible] ature. There were about a dozen of them but John can only [illegible] few names—Miss Arnold, Miss Nehers, Miss Gregory, Miss [illegible] Miss Potter are all he can recall.

There was no course of study. Everything was left to the [illegible] the scholar or the choice of the parents. John's studies were [illegible] Grammar, Philosophy and French. Every scholar was required [illegible] spell twice a week. French was the leading study and received [illegible] tention than anything else. Latin was well taken care of, [illegible] very few took it up except the boys who were fitting for [illegible] metic was taught in a slipshod way. The country boys were [illegible] best in this branch as the work they had done digging out [illegible] district school gave them a self-reliance that the village pupils [illegible] sess. John and Joshua Whitney were in the first class in [illegible] had no trouble in standing at the head of the class. In [illegible] struction was good. Mr. Gregory was a natural linguist and [illegible] in the line of language was taught in first-class style. John [illegible]

[illegible] term than in all the time he had studied it at the old

[illegible] of the school year at the Academy was the annual ex[illegible]. No special work in the way of review was done [illegible] the scholars were carefully drilled on their pieces [illegible] The examination began Monday morning, closing Tues[illegible] was the great exhibition day. Like most other [illegible] a matinee in the afternoon and another performance [illegible] part in this and acquitted himself fairly well, [illegible] in fact they couldn't well have done otherwise with [illegible]. The examinations were oral and for the most [illegible] All questions wers taken from the text books used [illegible] John solved two examples on his slate, one in [illegible] other in Compound Proportion, and exhibited his [illegible] and Deacon Ticknor. They nodded approv[illegible] said nothing. At the end of the year, Winslow C. [illegible] Hewitt left school to enter the Freshman class of [illegible]

[illegible] November John again took his seat in the Academic [illegible] old faces were there and a few new ones. Among the [illegible] Caleb Southwick, David Southwick and Kismer [illegible] of the older village boys, who were not in school [illegible] to finish their school days. Among these were [illegible] Fred Allen and Abram Kingsland. Of [illegible] the three Misses Southwick, Fannie Watson and [illegible] dropped Arithmetic, Grammar and Philosophy, and [illegible] Algebra, Latin and Physiology. The school was not [illegible] quiet and uneventful. The exhibition of this year [illegible] of the best in the history of the school and, as a new [illegible] were original. The scholars who wrote their own [illegible] Davis Moore, James Sheridan, Joshua Whit[illegible] and the sixth name John cannot recall. Henry [illegible] French piece.

[illegible] of the year was the resignation of Mr. Gregory, [illegible] who left to assume a similar position at Al[illegible] Mr. Gregory was a man of great scholarship and [illegible] kindly to the pupils who showed a desire to im[illegible] to help them on in their work. At the same [illegible] a disciplinarian and lacked the tact necessary for the [illegible] He never should have been a principal but, as a [illegible] would have gained a great reputation. But he endeared himself to his pupils and today, after the lapse of [illegible] there are many gray-headed men and white-haired women, [illegible] gladness their days at the Academy and remember him with [illegible] and gratitude.

When John returned to school the next fall he found things [illegible] changed. Gilbert Thayer and C. H. Dann were associated [illegible] and the building was crowded. Mr. Thayer was superintendent [illegible] school, and Mrs. Dann was the classical teacher. Under M[illegible] administration the attendance had run down, and the first [illegible] trustees was to secure a teacher that would build it up, and [illegible] they reelected Mr. Thayer. Their choice was a judicious [illegible] years he had taught the district school on Catholic Hill with [illegible] He had a good common school education, an enormous stock [illegible] and blarney enough to have supplied a dozen Irishmen with [illegible] that useful article. At the same time he was affable, polite and [illegible] the result of his endeavors every seat was filled, and the school [illegible] ing. Mr. Dann was the direct counterpart of Mr. Thayer in [illegible] He was a close student, a bookish man, a thorough teacher and [illegible] drill master, but he was a reserved, quiet and unpretentious [illegible] friends very slowly. To those who had been accustomed to M[illegible] easy-go-lucky method of teaching, the requirements of Mr. [illegible] harsh and forbidding, and he was not popular among the [illegible] did not like him at first but soon saw the advantages of [illegible] pursued. The new scholars out-numbered the old, and change[illegible] ter of the school entirely. The towns of Lewis, Jay and W[illegible] in large delegations and the country around Keeseville [illegible] full quota. The most prominent of the new-comers were [illegible] N. Boudry, Alonzo I. Alden, Bovette B. Bishop, William [illegible] B. Carter, Jacob Hinds, Heman Sprague and Frank A[illegible] young ladies John cannot remember very many, but, like the [illegible] came in droves. Of those most prominent were Harriet A. [illegible] A. Mills, Cornelia Mann, Alzina Williams, Amanda And[illegible] Walpole, Guila Elma Keese and Lydia Keese. The great [illegible] first year was to keep the school before the public and, for this [illegible] change was made in the time of holding the rhetorical exercises [illegible] nesday afternoon to Friday evening, and the public were [illegible] It was a novelty and the public came. The scholars played [illegible] houses. The boys were divided into two divisions, one week [illegible] tion, the next a composition. The girls were divided in the [illegible] and were expected to write every other week. The compositions [illegible] written on paper of uniform size, fastened together and read [illegible]

[illegible] by the teachers. These productions were dignified [illegible], and the readers had the honor of being called edi[illegible] boys papers were the Philomathesian, with the Latin [illegible]" and the Monitor, whose motto was "Success [illegible]." The girls papers were the Casket and the Jester. [illegible] advantages and its disadvantages. The boys became [illegible] before an audience, and perhaps were more careful [illegible] As John remembers, the school developed a great deal [illegible] But the pressure to which the scholars were sub[illegible] of providing something creditable to themselves [illegible] the audience led to some irregularities not to be com[illegible] the pupils became firm believers in Josh Billing's as[illegible] originality was to steal with discretion. This [illegible] enough, but they didn't steal with discretion and [illegible] A great many incidents of school life, harmless in them[illegible] and exaggerated till they seemed something wrong. [illegible] a craze for conundrums and puns formed by playing [illegible] names and hardly one in the school escaped this inflic[illegible] we give two or three:

[illegible] Keeseville Academy have a good supply of lumber?" [illegible] it has good Mills, two Sawyers and a Carter always [illegible]

[illegible] the boys of the Academy become good soldiers?" [illegible] Andrew Jackson before, and Louis Napoleon be[illegible] A. J. Hayes and L. N. Boudry, who occupied respect[illegible] seats on the boys' side.

[illegible] Keeseville Academy in danger of falling down?" Answer, [illegible] are soon to be removed," alluding to the departure [illegible] William and Mary Walpole.

[illegible] took it upon themselves to examine every article [illegible] nothing was received without being signed by the [illegible] not only as a guaranty of good faith but also for [illegible] straightened out matters. No examination and [illegible] this year. At the close of the summer term Allen P. [illegible] Moore entered Vermont University.

[illegible] year of John's sojourn was a very quiet one. The [illegible] Everyone had become accustomed to the new regime [illegible] worked more smoothly. The only thing worthy of [illegible] of the boys and girls, which took place at the be[illegible] term. The upper part of the building was fitted up [illegible] and Miss Phoebe Brock was the Principal. When

this change was made, the Friday evening exercises were [illegible]
each department had its own rhetoricals on Friday [illegible]
of the year an exhibition was given very creditable to the [illegible]
time several of the older scholars severed their connection [illegible]
L. N. Boudry left, F. J. Cook changed to Phillips [illegible]
and Joshua Whitney entered the Freshman class at [illegible]

Keeseville at this time was a prosperous, busy place, [illegible]
ness and more people than it has to day. There was a [illegible]
and nail factory, where iron was made, rolled into plates [illegible]
This was known as the Eagle Nail Works, and owned by [illegible]
& J. D. Kingsland & Co. It was a pretty sight to visit the [illegible]
at night and watch the bars of red-hot iron pass through the [illegible]
ing up the interior of the mill and giving a weird and [illegible]
operatives that made them seem like ghosts. Two grist mills [illegible]
one near the upper bridge, owned by Henry Green & [illegible]
by C. Phillips, the other a little above the lower bridge, [illegible]
& Tomlinson and run by Mr. Brands. The factory [illegible]
the management of Deacon Ticknor. In the building [illegible]
bridge was the cabinet shop of Potter & Richardson and [illegible]
shop of Nelson Kingsland. There was a foundry on the [illegible]
river near the upper bridge. There were two hotels, the [illegible]
on the west side of the river, run by T. P. Harvey, and [illegible]
Hotel, owned and kept by J. W. Taygard. The most [illegible]
the place was the "Old Stone Row" on the east bank of [illegible]
by Mr. Spenser. In the north end was the village [illegible]
kept by I. A. Hasbrouck, the most polite man in [illegible]
the Post Office, and we think Gordon Thomas was the [illegible]
time. Close to the Post Office was the general store of [illegible]
and adjacent to this, the merchant tailoring establishment [illegible]
Morris. We cannot recall the occupant of the store in the [illegible]
building. In the two old stone buildings south, were the [illegible]
mont & Keeler, and E. H. Garfield. The brick building [illegible]
as Kingsland's store, where William Kingsland kept a dry [illegible]
only dry goods store in the village. In the center was a [illegible]
the south end was filled by the shoe store of L. S. [illegible]
of the stone row, in a little old wooden building, was the [illegible]
Adams. Heman Mattews kept the only tin and hardware [illegible]
lage. S. & O. S. Blinn had a small establishment of this [illegible]
time but soon sold out and went west. G. A. Cardwell [illegible]
made-clothing man located in the Adirondack Hotel [illegible]
Reynolds had a stock of confectionery and fancy groceries [illegible]
store near the Adirondack. Hiram Jones held forth in the [illegible]

[illegible] Main and Front streets, and was famous for his
[illegible] believe his place was the only restaurant in the vil-
[illegible] blacksmith shops, Miles S. Bushnell, Mr. Sheldon,
[illegible]. George Fuller kept a livery stable at the foot
[illegible] John B. Tufts was running the stage line to Port
[illegible] at the zenith of his glory as a stage driver. This
[illegible] all the business of the town. There were five
[illegible], Episcopal, Methodist, Weslean Methodist,
[illegible] Catholic. The clergymen were respectively, Rev.
[illegible] Wells, Rev. Mr. Knight, Rev. Mr. Eaton and
[illegible] Baptist society had just vacated their church on
[illegible] their new church on Front street, and about
[illegible] tore down their old church, and erected

[illegible] G. A. Summons was the best known A man
[illegible] and scholarly attainments. Finch & Harwood
[illegible] practicing lawyers. Cam McLean and James Keese
[illegible] lawyers. John McElroy and H. M. Chase were
[illegible] had just been admitted. The medical profession
[illegible] Blanchard, a homoepathic physician and Drs. H.
[illegible] Hopkins and Jacob Blaisdell, of the old school.
[illegible], The Essex County Republican, edited by
[illegible] the AuSable River Gazette, with A. C. Nelson as
[illegible] a whig paper, the latter democratic in its politics.
[illegible] of the day whom John remembers were Silas
[illegible] man, reputed to be the richest man in Keese-
[illegible] retired capitalist; Richard Keese, a great politician
[illegible] by attending to all sorts of public matters; Cash-
[illegible] in finance—and of a certainty he did run the
[illegible] in a manner that made its bills as good as gold;
[illegible] given to telling long stories in Spenser &
[illegible], an old bachelor who had been justice of the
[illegible] the memory of man runneth not to the contrary;
[illegible] the philosopher of the village and indulged in
[illegible] younger men John remembers very few. Charles
[illegible] bank, Oliver Keese, Jr., was in business with his
[illegible] man of leisure, was working his way to lit-
[illegible] series of articles in The Essex County Republican
[illegible] of Crowquill.

[illegible] gentleman of color, the village factotum and fourth
[illegible] occasion he began his speech to the assembled

multitudes of Keeseville with the following words: [illegible] who blacks your boots? who runs your errands? who [illegible] your rooms for the last twenty years? Truly it is the [illegible] Tamar, Esq., who now addresses you." It is said his [illegible] occasion inspired such enthusiasm that the people rewarded [illegible] barrel of superfine flour and several dollars in money. [illegible] was another well known character of that time. He was a [illegible] man who rang the Congregational church bell and filed [illegible]

On the whole, Keeseville of fifty years ago was a quiet [illegible] place. For a manufacturing town it had very little drunkenness [illegible] little crime. Its people were sober, honest, industrious. [illegible] religious opportunities were of a high order, and Keeseville [illegible] place to live in.

* * *

THE FIRST KEESE

AS I have been asked to write something about the [illegible] Keeseville, I will at first relate a few incidents [illegible] father, Richard Keese, as told me by my mother.

About the year 1791 he and his brothers [illegible] county to this part of the state in search of farms. At [illegible] were a few settlers at Willsboro but between that place and [illegible] forest with no road whatever.

While making the journey up here, my grandfather [illegible] divided and the part that went ahead blazed the trees to [illegible] rear know the course that had been taken. To more [illegible] way, they wrote on a large rock, where they had stopped [illegible] have eated our dinner and gone on."

The pioneers reached the Ausable River but, not thinking [illegible] the kind of land they wanted, they went still further north [illegible] in what has since been known as the Union, on land [illegible] Richard Keese, a grandson.

All my grandfather brought with him into this wilderness [illegible] of clothes and an axe, but with this axe he cleared a small [illegible] after building a log house, returned to Dutchess county [illegible] One thing about the house I have always remembered [illegible] the mode of getting the wood in for the fire. On opposite [illegible] main room there were large doors through which horses [illegible] bringing in the large back-log for the immense fireplace; [illegible] log lasted several days, visits from the horses did not [illegible]

[illegible] often say as he came in at night, "I don't know as [illegible] of us but the bears and wolves," we can realize to [illegible] of the country in those far-a-way days.

[illegible] was built the first house in this village, a log hut, [illegible] now stands; a little later a gristmill was built by John [illegible] my grandfather joined with Anderson and a rolling [illegible] the house now owned by Mr. McMahon, called the Hayes [illegible] by Keese and Anderson. My grandfather died in [illegible] he had commenced in this village was continued by [illegible] Oliver. The first store on the Clinton side of this [illegible] by Elias Hulburt and Richard Keese, and very [illegible] Fisk and Oliver Keese built the first store on the [illegible]

[illegible] event in connection with the early history of [illegible] in my own recollection is the visit of President Van- [illegible] Port Kent by Judge Fisk and Richard Keese and [illegible] event of his coming was celebrated by a torchlight [illegible] illumination. The President was entertained at the [illegible] who then lived in the house now owned by Mr. Daniel [illegible] morning the towns-people were invited to the home [illegible] the President.

[illegible] incident in connection with the reception was related to [illegible] the remark: Mrs. Fisk, being a staunch Whig, [illegible] with the President but remained in her room where [illegible] to see her; to one she said, "Been shaking hands [illegible] Shook hands like any other man, didn't he?" [illegible] he went by carriage to Plattsburgh, and a group of [illegible] whom being myself, was delighted and felt highly [illegible] by with uncovered head, the President of all [illegible]

[illegible] important men of early Keeseville was Judge Fisk [illegible] spoken. He was a very successful business [illegible] member of the Methodist church, being the [illegible] Sunday-school for several years. This was a posi- [illegible] to fill, particularly as he was very fond of children. [illegible] child he met, and I very distinctly remember meet- [illegible] the bridge when he stopped his horse and greeted [illegible] in a manner that I shall never forget.

[illegible] August 1844, and the large attendance at his funeral [illegible] and respect that the people had for him. He [illegible] called the "old cemetery" which at the present time is a part of the village altogether too much neglected for the [illegible] place of one of our most noted citizens.

About 1847 a pleasant event in the history of the [illegible] at the home of Elias Hurlburt. This was a family [illegible] grandmother who was about eighty-five. Nearly all of [illegible] invitations were accepted thus making a large company [illegible] were four generations. While the older ones were at [illegible] ing the supper that was served in Aunt Hannah's best [illegible] great-grandchild, a son of Frederick and Mary Ames, was [illegible] and placed in the center of the table; at the same time those [illegible] fourth generations marched around the table in a mood [illegible] consistent with the strict Quaker principles of our fathers [illegible]

Now the thought naturally arises, "Where are they?" [illegible] cast a shadow over the scene but leave them smiling [illegible] hasten on to speak of a few of the principals of the school [illegible] children and great-grandchildren attended. The older ones [illegible] of Mr. Lamb and Mr. Law, while the younger were [illegible] genial Mr. Smith and the highly educated and accomplished [illegible] Gregory.

Here I will close, for if I should allow my pen to wander [illegible] book with the pleasant reminiscences of old Keeseville and its [illegible]

[illegible]

* * *

LETTER FROM ASA R. WELLS

MRS. ELLA H. B. TAYLOR,

My dear Cousin:—You write me that the society of [illegible] of Keeseville, will soon give an entertainment in which it [illegible] hear from any former resident of Keeseville in matters of [illegible] history.

I assume from this that I am counted as a former [illegible] so long ago that even I have almost forgotten the fact, [illegible] probably, one dozen people now in Keeseville vicinity who [illegible] cumstance. Still I can associate with my boyhood days [illegible] substantial fact of which I may at this late date speak [illegible] eloquently. I refer to my great admiration for the King's [illegible] Keeseville Daughters, K Ds., which, I assume, are all [illegible] your society, for no part of the world, in my estimation, [illegible] produced such charming daughters. The sincerity of [illegible]

[illegible] in 1856 I returned to Keeseville, after a few years [illegible] and San Francisco, a full grown, and in one respect [illegible] and carry away one of your fairest King's Daugh-

[illegible] King that hath dominion over so many? Is he a [illegible] of Europe, or is he the Great King above, Who [illegible] and looks down on the beauties of earth and [illegible] sparrows?

[illegible] and incidents of my early life on the Ausable are [illegible] of the dim distant, a bird's flight through the air, [illegible] remember with indifferent recollection as to exact [illegible] sensation of the hour when a smart shower of [illegible] from the nearly completed stone bridge spanning [illegible] later sent the bridge, with its thousands of tons [illegible] into the deep waters below.

[illegible] which was always a world of interest to me, I could [illegible] but I will speak of but one other—I refer to the [illegible] of foot bridge above the dam. The occa- [illegible] day and the march was directed across the [illegible] too great, the bridge gave way, precipitating large [illegible] stream. My young brother with young Pope [illegible] went into the water hand in hand. My brother, by [illegible] exertion, was rescued just as his legs went over the [illegible] companions were lost as were a number of others.

[illegible] of my early life none are more lasting than the [illegible] the leading men of Keeseville. Their examples were [illegible] their integrity was beyond question. In no commun- [illegible] were the common people so content and easily gov- [illegible] interested in everybody's welfare. The world [illegible] I shall think kindly and lovingly of my childhood [illegible] shall sound the end of my career on earth.

[illegible], January 22nd, 1900.

ASA R. WELLS.

* * *

[illegible] HALF OF THE CENTURY

[illegible] DAUGHTERS:

[illegible] your kind invitation to send for your meeting some [illegible] and its people as I knew them, I said, "what [illegible] and events of more than half a century ago?" I soon found, however, that instead of being troubled [illegible] was burdened with what a Frenchman would call [illegible] *richesse*," and the difficulty I must surmount was, not [illegible] but what I should not say.

If my tale seems to be "over lang," you are at liberty [illegible] cil" it to your heart's content. If it contributes to the [illegible] will have fulfilled its intent. If it proves a weariness [illegible] will at any rate have this merit—its writing has been a [illegible] writer.

The few personal reminiscences of Keeseville given [illegible] fined to the first half of the century, first, because later [illegible] to its residents of today, and secondly, because I have [illegible] the place since 1853.

The first settlers of Keeseville evidently consulted [illegible] the valley and the river in laying out streets, as [illegible] exactly parallel, and not one is straight through its [illegible] original survey and plat of the village, upon which [illegible] to all the lots therein, were made by Edwin F. Johnson, [illegible] teen years old, the son of a celebrated civil engineer, and [illegible] a noted railroad builder in the West.

Among the first buildings that I remember were the [illegible] Bank, the old "Stone Row", the two stone buildings [illegible] "Kingsland Block", the Methodist church, the [illegible] plaster mill and the furniture factory at the end of the [illegible] another grist-mill and saw-mill at the east end of the [illegible] opposite side of the river were the old Congregational [illegible] factory and rolling-mill and the old tannery. At the top [illegible] the old academy, replacing an earlier structure of [illegible] school house" and the Baptist church, each facing [illegible] mon"—the arena of many a hard fought game of [illegible] the style in which all the boys of a school could join, [illegible] cise and sport, and not confined to a few "professionals" [illegible] as a business and played "for the money there is in it".

Most of the physical features of the place are as I [illegible] when we speak of the men and women of the thirty [illegible] we enter a field nearly unknown to the people of [illegible]

The early settlers of Keeseville came largely from [illegible] brought with them those sturdy traits of character, [illegible] honesty, and especially a high moral and religious tone [illegible] place, in its early days, a deep and lasting impression. [illegible] D. Moore and wife, with a brother-in-law, Jonathan W. [illegible]

[illegible] the winter of 1826-7, another brother-in-law, John [illegible] family, having preceded them a short time; a [illegible] Moore, came soon after but remained only a short [illegible] the rest of their lives in or near Keeseville and [illegible] father in the year 1872 and Deacon Davis some [illegible] Brigham died in Illinois and was buried in Milwaukee,

[illegible] from 1839 to 1853, after which date I was in [illegible] many people that I can scarcely do more than [illegible] who were then prominent but who have passed [illegible] leaving no representatives and whose names may [illegible] of this generation.

[illegible] there were in the old "Stone Row", Isaac A. [illegible] Beckwith, Spencer & Adgate, W. W. Tabor; far- [illegible] & Beach, and later, Smith & Boynton and E. H. [illegible] occupying their own brick block. The "old relia- [illegible] Prescott, whose word was always considered [illegible] Mathews Brothers were headquarters for stoves [illegible] of that day were like the modern "department" [illegible] more or less of nearly everything required for [illegible] the great bulk of the trade being "barter" trans- [illegible] of money in circulation comparatively very small. [illegible] from eight to twelve and a half dollars per [illegible] year, or fifty cents by the day. Skilled work- [illegible] day than is now paid for the cheapest street labor.

[illegible] physicians, I came in contact with but two; Dr. Fox, [illegible] and the elder Dr. Jones—though I recall the names [illegible] Gardner and Weston.

[illegible] but only two, of more than fifty years ago, [illegible] impression on my mind. Martin Finch, plain, [illegible] thoroughly trusted and trustworthy, a man who, [illegible] suggests to my mind the characteristics of the great [illegible] At a ripe old age, a faithful counselor for [illegible] Finch was laid at rest among the people he [illegible] so well.

[illegible] attempt to portray, and shall do so but briefly. [illegible] than brilliant; a statesman, but not a politician [illegible] student, thoroughly conversant with the latest scien- [illegible] his day; a literary man of unusual attainments, [illegible] original the literature of six languages; a hater of [illegible] boys, to whom his conversation was always a delight. Few men wielded a greater power for [illegible] than that grand Christian gentlemen, George A. [illegible]

Many clergymen of various churches came [illegible] boyhood, of whom I can not even recall the names. [illegible] was such a power not only in the church of which [illegible] eighteen years, but in the whole community, exerting [illegible] went so far toward building up whatever tended to the [illegible] and religious uplifting of society, so widely was he [illegible] was he identified with the best life of the town, that, [illegible] years have elapsed since his familiar face was seen [illegible] minds of all will doubtless suggest the name of him [illegible] John Mattocks. Sturdy son of good old New England [illegible] witty, fearless and outspoken in his denunciation of [illegible] his native hills in what he believed to be right [illegible] the results of his years of loving service in the cause [illegible]

From the first, the people of the village and vicinity [illegible] interest in educational matters. The common schools [illegible] sustained, and the reputation of Keeseville Academy was [illegible] in northern New York. The earliest instructors I can [illegible] its high standing the Academy was indebted, more [illegible] other person, to my old personal friend and beloved teacher [illegible] Gregory. A thorough gentleman of high ideals, a [illegible] attainments, widely read in the best literature, with a [illegible] parting instruction, he possessed an individual charm that [illegible] people, and bound them to him in the lasting ties of [illegible]

The old Essex County Bank recalls stern visaged [illegible] Thompson and the serene, pleasant face of its great [illegible] Silas Arnold.

Four grave and dignified Deacons come before my [illegible] Barnes, Ticknor. Adgate;—I seem yet to hear the [illegible] Deacon Adgate, as for half a century he joined in [illegible] the Master, Whose praises he now sings in the great [illegible] redeemed.

Of other men and women who filled prominent places [illegible] and society of Keeseville and vicinity fifty or more years [illegible] more than a mention of some of their names, many of [illegible] sound strange to the present generation. Let me call [illegible] have not mentioned, who were active in the community [illegible] century ago.—Barton, Beach, Bissell, Briggs, Bushnell, [illegible] Fisk, Fletcher, Forsyth, Fowler, Granger, Hargraves, [illegible] Dunning, Holden, Huestis, Hurlburt, Macomber, [illegible]

[illegible] Powers, Sherman, Spencer, Stowe, Thomas, [illegible] and a longer and older list whose very [illegible] memory.

[illegible] my boyhood days! How my heart goes back to [illegible] of the "forties," I roved through its streets, [illegible] banks, and in winter coasted down its [illegible] By the way, I wonder if the boy of the year of [illegible] and ride an old time, single stave "skipper." [illegible] Jimmy Low, or "Crazy John," or the [illegible] training day" in 1842?

[illegible] descriptions of the ways of living in those [illegible] simple,—when merchants brought on their [illegible] year,—when steamboats were few and railroads [illegible] of electricity were not even a dream,—when [illegible] York took three days,—when letter postage cost [illegible] cents,—but I forbear to weary you further. If [illegible] tried, console yourselves with the thought of [illegible] has given the writer. I can now realize [illegible] when he wrote,

[illegible] olim meminisse juvabit."

Yours very truly,

DAVIS G. MOORE.

* * *

[illegible] FROM D. A. GOODSELL

[illegible] comply with your request for a letter in aid of [illegible]

[illegible] of Keeseville, for I left there when fifteen years [illegible] boy. In "overgrownness" I shared with Joseph [illegible] years older than I, was of stature and weight and [illegible] Like all boyhood memories, my recollections [illegible] very distinct.

[illegible] Keeseville was difficult, but no more so than fell to [illegible] been trained for it, cutting wood, building fires, [illegible] heavily to a city lad, and the necessary [illegible] of pneumonia which left me thin and weak for [illegible] would suppose from my present weight in the [illegible] I have only pleasant memories of the village; so pleasant in fact that a photographic picture of it has [illegible] the forty-five years since I left it. I could not have [illegible] to the beautiful environments of the place then, for [illegible] view from Prospect hill, of the walk on the rocks in the [illegible] Keeseville bridge to Ausable Chasm, and of the Chasm [illegible] was more than a single flight of stairs to get down to the [illegible] remain with me. Moreover the glories of the river in [illegible] ice over the dam, and of the snow-crowned Whiteface [illegible] and the old teetering wire bridge from which I watched [illegible] the rolling-mill with its ruddy light; the nail shop, [illegible] clatter, abide with me. Of this last I wrote a [illegible] When the Sun Was Low," describing the grime and [illegible] therein, which was so realistic that my teachers [illegible] printing in the Academy paper lest my passage from school [illegible] be punctuated by the fate which Bret Harte at a later day [illegible] Dean of Angels."

> "Then rose Abner Dean of Angels when
> A chunk of old red sandstone hit him in the [illegible]
> And he smiled a sickly smile and curled up on the [illegible]
> And the subsequent proceedings interested him [illegible]

Thus my only attempt at poetry died untimely.

The fine stone arch of the bridge near the Presbyterian [illegible] built while I was there, and great was the delight of all [illegible] the complicated and massive wood work which held up the [illegible] the keystone was put in. The Kingslands and the [illegible] member rightly, the great manufacturers of the place, [illegible] young people were with me in school. Alas! the [illegible] those, as well as myself, whom I met this summer.

A crowd of beautiful girls then attended the Academy, [illegible] now it may be as I am a grandfather. I could call them [illegible] not lest I should make them seem older than they [illegible] tinguished schoolmate, distinguished then as now, was [illegible] known then as Flavius Josephus. We prophesied great [illegible] and were true prophets. What crowds came from the [illegible] hear him orate! How his poetry was devoured by all [illegible] paper came out! My room-mate for awhile was Louis W. [illegible] since gone to the majority, who, being of French descent, [illegible] with a story or "composition" in that tongue, sharply [illegible] French by the then priest of the French Roman church.

My dear grandmother, Clorina Ferris, of Peru, was the [illegible] ideal grandmother whom memory has not idealized, for [illegible] ideal. It was my joy to escape from the Saturday's [illegible]

[illegible] to her side. For years she sat in one place, white [illegible] serene and calm, white capped and white shawled, lines [illegible] near her mouth, but the eternal faith of undying hope [illegible] a wonderful pocket from which came rags and salve [illegible] a wonderful heart from which came comfort for childish [illegible] in the shape of obese cookies for hungry stomachs. [illegible] I left to enter college have I visited these dear [illegible] is still there:

> "[illegible] may come and men may go,
> But I go on forever."

[illegible] are there still, but "the Fathers, where are [illegible] was the year after I graduated in 1859—few [illegible] in 1881 with my son of eighteen—two recalled me. [illegible] summer, with my wife and daughters, I went to the old [illegible] and did the chores for my schooling, and the old [illegible] where my mother was born—now in the hands of [illegible] One or two schoolmates alone I could find; per- [illegible] the list of the town, but otherwise not accessible; [illegible] where I knew eleven. I think I shall not come [illegible] know only the dead.

Yours faithfully,

D. A. GOODSELL.

* * *

[illegible] YEARS AT KEESEVILLE ACADEMY

1852-54

K[illegible] was the spot in which, as I now judge, my soul [illegible] It was not till later at Phillips Academy, Andover, that [illegible] the first time, to stand upon my feet. It is difficult [illegible] has the greater fascination in memory, the awaken- [illegible] or its subsequent rising to adolescent height, and [illegible] journey in the world. Nearly every young man thinks [illegible] before he is such. Perhaps the most satisfying rec- [illegible] the years in which one reaches his majority and the [illegible] and spiritually, and begins to do serious work [illegible] But there is a beauty in the early dawn which [illegible] and becomes more alluring as one looks backward [illegible] of the day.

It may be that "distance lends enchantment" [illegible]
I have studied at Andover and Heidelberg, each [illegible]
are no school grounds of mine which I oftener [illegible]
than those of Keeseville as I knew them from [illegible]
dacks were not famous then, though they drew [illegible]
Chasm, inadequately appreciated by students in the [illegible]
win its wide repute among tourists.

John Brown had not been buried at North [illegible]
bles and the Civil War were drawing on apace. [illegible]
sublime figures of the constellations as seen from [illegible]
and cities, and from ship's decks on the Atlantic [illegible]
Japan, India, Palestine and the whole breadth of [illegible]
and America, I have never passed such entranced [illegible]
stars as I did on the first evening I ever gave to [illegible]
which I spent alone on the open grounds in front of [illegible]
French Catholic church at Keeseville. Richter's [illegible]
Universe" was one of my favorite extracts for [illegible]
days and it made my blood tingle to my finger [illegible]
anything from Webster or Victor Hugo, who also [illegible]
favorites.

It was at Keeseville that I heard the news of the [illegible]
ster. He passed away on a gorgeous and golden [illegible]
of the sea at Marshfield. I remember well that the [illegible]
seemed immense and irreparable. Many young men [illegible]
had sunk. A short contribution of mine entitled [illegible]
peared in the Essex County Republican, and was [illegible]
my own that I ever saw in print.

The Academy published occasionally at that [illegible]
" The Student's Offering ", a respectably printed [illegible]
in which specimens of the wit and wisdom of the [illegible]
preserved for the amusement of their friends, the [illegible]
aspiration, and the advertising of the Academy. [illegible]
Principal, was an alert, shrewd, noble-minded man, [illegible]
build up his school by legitimate work for it in two [illegible]

He afterwards founded an important and [illegible]
Morgan Park, near Chicago. One of his daughters, [illegible]
is a poetess of merit, whom I knew as a girl of [illegible]
symmetrical countenance. The Academy was a mixed [illegible]
much keen competition between the more advanced [illegible]
women, some of whom seem to me yet to have [illegible]
brilliant endowments.

[illegible] known to the churches as Bishop Goodsell makes a
[illegible] of my memory of those years. He was tall,
[illegible] frame, with a general look of power and genius in the
[illegible] the fine cranial contour. He was naturally eloquent
[illegible] greatly valued in our literary society, the "Keeseville
[illegible]

[illegible] Alden, whose distinguished services in the Civil
[illegible] history of his country, died on January 16th, 1900, in
[illegible] a man of inflexible integrity, high aspirations, strong
[illegible] He was my room-mate for a time, and has
[illegible] valued personal friend. His death is a deep
[illegible] When he was only a colonel he won fame by
[illegible] at Cold Harbor through a murderous fire, in the
[illegible] first to plant the colors on the rebel ramparts.
[illegible] wound on this occasion and carried the lead
[illegible] to his dying day. At Fort Fisher he and a
[illegible] blown into the air by the explosion of a rebel
[illegible] with the debris of the building and was thought to
[illegible] at his home in Troy, but, after many hours
[illegible] his recovery and was soon again in the field
[illegible] distinguished gallantry. He was one of the de-
[illegible] John Alden of the Mayflower and the Plymouth
[illegible]

[illegible] W. Lansing of the Northern Standard, one of
[illegible] editors in Essex county during the Civil War,
[illegible] in the Academy, a young man of lofty
[illegible] ability and taste, who was afterwards well
[illegible] northern New York as an upright and influen-
[illegible]

[illegible] who probably surpassed all his school mates
[illegible] work in the classical languages, has become a
[illegible] rank.

[illegible] friend, Rev. Louis N. Beaudry, came with me
[illegible] Keeseville Academy as a Catholic. He invited me
[illegible] Sunday with him, when we were room-
[illegible] condition that he would go with me on some Sun-
[illegible] Congregational church of which the Rev. John
[illegible] Mr. Beaudry did so and greatly admired Mr.
[illegible] it was under Methodist auspices that he be-
[illegible] a valuable biography which has been trans-
[illegible] Spanish. He was chaplain, chiefly in Colonel

Hammond's regiment, during the Civil War and [illegible] Fifth New York Cavalry. He was greatly respected [illegible] told me that he had heard the singing of bullets [illegible] battles and skirmishes. He died in Chicago in the [illegible] for the French population of that city. His son, a [illegible] position, assured me that his father's last illness was [illegible] which he underwent in Libby prison.

It is a most pathetic memory to me that Mr. [illegible] practice extemporaneous speaking together at Keeseville [illegible] beyond the cemetery on the high northern bank of the [illegible] had, in those days, a passion for extemporaneous speaking [illegible] occupied Saturday afternoons we would write out twenty [illegible] subjects on separate slips of paper, shuffle them together [illegible] two or three hundred feet apart and oblige ourselves to [illegible] fifteen minutes on a topic drawn at random from the [illegible] taught us fluency no doubt, enlarged our vocabulary and [illegible] alertness in thinking on our feet. But we lacked a [illegible] performances of this kind as we did also in our debating [illegible] societies. Our teachers were kind to us and their [illegible] inspiring, but might profitably have been more severe [illegible] literary excellence.

Cicero, however, specially in the famous orations [illegible] seems yet to me to have been a morning star that rose [illegible] the Keeseville horizons. Judge Simmons, a distinguished [illegible] of commanding presence, tall, broad-shouldered, erect, [illegible] ment, his noble face aglow with habitually rapid thought [illegible] day in front of his office, as I remember, as I was walking [illegible] from the Academy at about sunset. "What book have [illegible] arm?" he said, and with a nervous movement seized my [illegible] Orations, opened it at a venture and began to translate [illegible] quent English the impassioned Latin paragraphs. He [illegible] time in the literary zest with which he recalled Cicero's [illegible] "Do you know," said he, "what history lies behind these [illegible] you study the immortal literature and mighty deeds of [illegible] her language? What a man Cicero was, as orator, [illegible] pher, friend!" These few sentences and the manner in [illegible] uttered by this mature and majestic man as he stood there [illegible] with uncovered head in the westering sunlight were [illegible] genuine literary enthusiasm in classical scholarship and [illegible] me, I hope, a flame which will never die out. No other [illegible] by tutors or professors ever did as much for me as this [illegible]

[illegible] lawyer. Carlyle says that "souls grow more by [illegible] by all other instrumentalities united." It was not [illegible] finished a college and professional course of study and [illegible] I acquired an equal enthusiasm for Demosthenes and [illegible]

[illegible] Watson, the accomplished historian of Essex county, [illegible] personal acquaintance with him, produced on me a [illegible] Keeseville by a single address which he made to the [illegible] rhythmical style, in which one was at a loss [illegible] the matter or the manner.

[illegible] however, who produced such an effect upon [illegible] for more then forty years towered above all [illegible] except Judge Simmons, as St. Paul's Cathedral [illegible] and domes and spires. It was under his in- [illegible] a member of the Congregational church at Keese- [illegible] the son of a former governor of Vermont, a [illegible] college and had passed through the course of study [illegible] to the bar. It was while pursuing his work as a [illegible] interested in the preaching of the distinguished [illegible] Troy, N. Y., who was himself, in his later min- [illegible] by the great evangelist President Finney. [illegible] theology at Yale College Divinity School and at [illegible] of his first pastorates. He was a man of command- [illegible] Any intellectual career might have been open to him [illegible] the first rank in respect to moral and mental en- [illegible] to me consisted largely in the fact that his methods [illegible] truths to an audience were those of a lawyer—that [illegible] to give a reason for the faith that was in him. [illegible] evening discourses, full of calm, but powerful [illegible] he preached once from the text, Romans 12:1: "I [illegible] brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye [illegible] a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [illegible] reasonable service." The emphasis was placed [illegible] "mercies" and "reasonable", and that sermon [illegible] instrumentality in causing me to try to [illegible] There was a religious awakening in progress in the [illegible] the most thoughtful and quiet kind, though by no [illegible] and intensity of both conviction and feeling. Look [illegible] become no cross to bear the Cross. This was the [illegible] the evangelical preacher, and my experience justi- [illegible] pilgrim, in the earlier stages of his journey, had no experiences which were not in substance mine also. W[illegible] others, mostly young men, several of whom became [illegible] ceived into the church on confession of faith. Mr. Ma[illegible] byterian, but the church was Congregational. Mr. M[illegible] on Sundays, always written out in full, although he was [illegible] poraneous speaker, were as impressive to me at the time [illegible] heard since, excepting only those of Professor Park, Pro[illegible] Professor Shedd in my student days at Phillips Academy, [illegible] Mr. Spurgeon and Canon Liddon, at a later time. Mr. M[illegible] final years, was a leading preacher at St. Paul, Min[illegible] record in that city in connection with the care of the pub[illegible] as with his labors as preacher and pastor, that is rem[illegible] erence. In the midst of a very fruitful revival in his [illegible] suddenly of apoplexy and lies now buried at St. Paul. I [illegible] grave more than once with unspeakable emotion. He fought [illegible] and he kept the faith. Of all my pastors I owe more to him [illegible] other. On the wall of my Lake George study at Cliff [illegible] under Mr. Mattocks best photographic portrait, I have placed [illegible] word, this characteristic sentence from one of his discourses [illegible] resisted gives infinitely more pleasure than temptation [illegible]

JOSEPH [illegible]

Boston, Jan. 26, 1900.

* * *

LETTER FROM F. P. ALLEN

TROY, N. Y., March [illegible]

TO THE KING'S DAUGHTERS:

Your letter containing request for reminiscences of [illegible] Keeseville reached me a week ago, and I enclose a short [illegible] Wishing you great success in your enterprise, I remain,

Yours truly,

F. P. [illegible]

MY father, Anson H. Allen, took up his residence [illegible] in 1826 or 1827, when he was about twenty-[illegible] and soon after commenced the publication of [illegible] Herald," the first newspaper ever printed [illegible] Soon after he married Mary Morehouse, who had come [illegible] county to open a millinery establishment in the new [illegible]

[illegible] third child and was born in 1832, in a dwelling which [illegible] present site of the Baptist church on your principal [illegible] My earliest recollections date back to 1840, and were im[illegible] youthful mind by the stirring political campaign of [illegible] Tyler too," which was in progress that summer. I [illegible] each party had a brass band at that time and nice [illegible] I think is more music of that kind than Keeseville [illegible] boast of in any year since then. Harry Mills was the [illegible] band, but I have forgotten who led the whig band. [illegible] not as elegant and classic as Gilmore's or Sousa's, it [illegible] of all the boys and girls in town.

[illegible] side of the river, on the corner directly opposite the [illegible] where, I think, now stands the residence of Dr. [illegible] erected a log cabin, and I well remember how it looked [illegible] upon the ridge-pole and a hard cider barrel by the door. [illegible] began in the district school on the hill south of the [illegible] Catholic church, and near the old Nelson Macomber [illegible] was Gilbert Thayer, who was afterward principal of [illegible] years later I went to the Academy, which was [illegible] by Buel W. Smith, as principal, with Isaac Newton [illegible] of languages. I sat in the same seat with W. C. [illegible] Judge Watson, of Plattsburgh. The only class-mate, [illegible] whom I recall is George Henry Cleaves.

[illegible] attended the Congregational church where Rev. John [illegible] He was also president of the Academy board of [illegible] great interest in its welfare. My Sabbath school teach[illegible] Davis and Adgate. These two, together with Deacon [illegible] Deacon Marcus Barnes, made up a quartette of ideal [illegible] as any congregation might be proud of. I have felt [illegible] through my life.

[illegible] days Keeseville was a very busy place, I think much [illegible] present. The iron and lumber business was specially [illegible] remember the almost endless procession of wagons [illegible] which came from up the river, passing through the [illegible] to the lake. When they reached Port Kent hill they [illegible] double up" their teams to reach the top. The iron works [illegible] Forks and New Sweden were then at the height of

[illegible] Brothers, Edmund, Jacob D., William W., Nelson and [illegible] the most prominent men in town, both in manufac[illegible] merchandising. My first store clerk-ship was in L. S. Scrib-

ner's shoe store. Afterward I was clerk in Morie & W[illegible]
house. I also studied for a few months with George W. [illegible]
many will remember as an eminent lawyer, and [illegible]
Silas Arnold was prsident of the Essex County Bank, and [illegible]
son, cashier, both flne old-school gentlemen. John H. [illegible]
teller is now cashier of the United National Bank, of [illegible]
prominent men not yet mentioned, I recall Thos. A. [illegible]
of Congress, Caleb D. Barton, Judge Fisk, Martin [illegible]
Richard Keese, Horace and Heman Matthews, Dr. [illegible]
Tabor, James Forsyth, Fred K., and Samuel Ames.

Although I have been away from Keeseville full [illegible]
cherish among my most pleasing memories the happy [illegible]
passed in my native village, and I always revisit those [illegible]
pleasure.

* * *

THE LOVELIEST VILLAGE OF THE PLAIN

THE following letter from Mrs. Colles is a [illegible]
Keese house, now occupied by Mr. N. T. H[illegible]
tiful days of long ago, Keeseville was [illegible]
loveliest village of the plain," and the home of Richard K[illegible]
dearest spots on earth. As a home of early childhood [illegible]
occasional visits afterward, many scenes come back with [illegible]
of hours that have long since flown.

The old stone house, standing back from one of the [illegible]
the village, was a stately mansion in its time, and was [illegible]
father in the latter part of the first quarter of the century [illegible]
was to me a place of endless interest and delight, with its [illegible]
and flax and odd garments put away, and all sorts [illegible]
stowed in corners, or hanging from nails or hooks on the [illegible]
ancient papers and books, packed in boxes, which [illegible]
attention as years developed their value to the child's [illegible]
tion. How fixed and stable all these conditions seemed [illegible]
never change! And how impossible for us to attain that [illegible]
again! In the garret the dim light from the small [illegible]
the front—a window with tiny panes—lent a weird effect [illegible]
and gave a touch of mystery, which inspired my cousin, [illegible]
with day-dreaming and story-telling, as we often sat, [illegible]
day, in this favorite nook, clasping each others hands [illegible]

[illegible] in the human mind," says Washington Irving, and
[illegible] and moment like this that the assertion is realized.
[illegible] garden at the front of the house was another delight for
[illegible] the street to the wide front door was a long flagged
[illegible] in one of those stones the imprint of two little feet
[illegible], and I long believed some fanciful story about it. On
[illegible] were trees, the foliage of which was thick and favor-
[illegible] built their nests and sang in their branches. Pretty
[illegible] and there, and the full-blossomed snow-ball I par-
[illegible] and the wax-berry. Over at the side, on somewhat
[illegible] across a little brook, you stepped into the garden, which
[illegible] the dearest flowers—old-fashioned flowers we call
[illegible] any so pretty and sweet? Some will remember how
[illegible] for my dear grandmother, and how she always had
[illegible] for every friend—rarely, if ever, did one go empty
[illegible] brook that wandered through was a charming feature of
[illegible] the tiny bridge which spanned it was just what would
[illegible] loved to cross and re-cross it. At another spot, at one
[illegible] grape-arbor with a floor over the brook, and, when the
[illegible], it seemed a luxury of luxuries to dance about this
[illegible] the clusters.

[illegible] garden seemed to me in those early days! Nothing is
[illegible] to return after many years to a scene of childhood
[illegible] ideas of space have diminished with life's advance.
[illegible] of this curious fact upon returning, when grown,
[illegible] I had not been since childhood. There was a park
[illegible] Lafayette Square, which I much wished to visit and
[illegible] to go with my nurse. There we could buy small
[illegible] from the negro women, who carried the tall freezers
[illegible] who were always good-natured, and chatty, and fond
[illegible] park seemed to me, as I remembered it, very large in-
[illegible] wonderfully it had shrunk in proportions! I could
[illegible] eyes when I found how small it really was.

[illegible] garden at my grandfather's covered what seemed to me
[illegible] of ground at the rear of house. It was fenced in and
[illegible] from the great open space at the end of what we called
[illegible], upon which the back doors of the house opened.
[illegible] to me, wonderful indeed. The vegetables that came from
[illegible] they were, prepared by one who knew exactly how to
[illegible] them, or under her direction! The gooseberries how
[illegible] how brilliantly red and beautiful, as they hung thick

upon the bushes. The Jerusalem artichokes I liked [illegible] the young peas were so sweet and juicy. Then I [illegible] and the silkworms my clever grandmother raised [illegible] time when the fad was raging. I had some excellent [illegible] then that she made from these cocoons.

There was a spot in this garden which always [illegible] the rest of it. It was over at the farthest end where the [illegible] suddenly to the Port Kent post-road. There all was [illegible] and wild-flowers grew and bloomed in their various [illegible] take the little snap-dragon and open its pretty mouth to [illegible] What singular things we find impressed, as "fond [illegible] light of other days around us."

The bright and sunny sitting-room was a favorite [illegible] all the inmates of the house, and usually a window[illegible] blooming there. Books were all about and grandma's [illegible] particular, from which were often read with great effect [illegible] trate a point of the conversation. Some will remember [illegible] witty and entertaining this dear grandma always was. [illegible] poetry, and Burns, and Tupper—the despised Tupper [illegible] beautiful English and brilliant wit and humor in the [illegible] be better for our college English if the Spectator were [illegible] day. And, as to Tupper, a verse from the book on that [illegible] with me and has helped me all my life. It is:

"The time is not lost which is passed in cementing [illegible]

The dictionary was much in requisition for my [illegible] kept up with the time in pronunciation and accent and [illegible] in a constant study of the meanings of words—an excellent [illegible] as an interesting and valuable habit.

In the great, wide window-seat of this sitting-room, [illegible] wood was kept for the excellent little Plattsburgh stove [illegible] learned my letters when a child—upon this window-seat I [illegible] recall a time in the fall of the year when the fine, red apples [illegible] the corner of the "lane" were in full glory. How full the [illegible] the delicious fruit! I can taste them now, and I can—oh, strange [illegible] I can exactly taste, also, the yellow vergalow pears, which [illegible] fruit of their kind ever to be had. Why are there none now [illegible]

There was another window-seat, wide and broad, in my [illegible] where it was a happiness in youth to sit late in the [illegible] others were sleeping, to look out and dream. Oh, sweet [illegible] young heart when, "in maiden meditation fancy free", [illegible] before us and full of possibilities, we build our gorgeous [illegible]

[illegible] Before me was the Ausable river with its murmur, [illegible] according to its mood; and the church spire, with [illegible] striking the hour. Sometimes this same bell stuck [illegible] that had passed from earth as was the lovely custom

[illegible] "The Two Villages" which especially appealed [illegible] then as I do still, that it applies remarkably to Keese- [illegible] lines flit across my mind as I write.

"In the village on the hill
Never is sound of smithy or mill.
The marble doors are always shut.
All the villagers lie asleep,
Never in dreams to moan or sigh,
Silent, and idle, and low they lie.

All around the forest trees
Shiver and whisper in the breeze;
Over it sailing shadows go,
Of soaring hawk or screaming crow,
And mountain grasses low and sweet
Grow in the middle of every street."

[illegible] village under the hill, on the contrary.

"In the streets no grasses grow,
For the wheels that hasten to and fro."

[illegible] of my grandfather's house—the great, wide kitchen—was [illegible] see now-a-days. It was on the ground floor, and its [illegible] far from the driveway. It was, therefore, a favorite [illegible], and quite a thoroughfare, so that the steps of the [illegible] to the dining-room above were actually worn with [illegible] remember the oven in the wall at the side of the chimney [illegible] filled with coals. When heated, these coals were with- [illegible] of my grandmother's delicious bread and pies put in with [illegible] brought out again with a golden crust. No beefsteak [illegible] broiled on her wood-coals, at this day.

[illegible] character strolled, now and then, into the kitchen, and was [illegible] with his huge bowl of coffee and his breakfast when- [illegible] In his rags and tatters and in his solemn and [illegible] withal, he comes up to me in memory as a unique [illegible] which I have never seen before or since. They called [illegible]," and a favorite remark of his, when addressed, was, [illegible] of his wits." He thought he earned the hospitality ex- [illegible] tidying up about the woodshed or cutting a little wood [illegible] chore" that was waiting. He insisted always on doing [illegible] while at work he was always muttering softly to himself.

pond with its beautiful outlet, where stood the old [illegible] George Fowler and his early home so quaint, [illegible] have left beautiful pictures on the walls of my [illegible]

Now how changed! It is no longer [illegible] The later residence of Mr. Fowler is now [illegible] But old Whiteface mountain and old Prospect hill [illegible] stood, a joy to all who behold them.

I seem yet to see the merry children, with [illegible] ing over stone-walls or through stump-fences on their [illegible] or “blueberries.” Those who were the children [illegible] climbing fairer hills and singing more joyous [illegible] join them, perhaps to rehearse together the scenes of [illegible]

March, 1900.

* * *

REMEMBERED DAYS

IF I understand the request, I have been [illegible] Daughters” to give an account of the day [illegible] which I recollect the best. When one [illegible] most of my life has been passed there, and [illegible] such a day I have an assortment of thousands to select [illegible] of the task is apparent.

My earliest recollection of Keeseville is when, as a [illegible] was taken in my granfather's carriage at Port Kent, [illegible] through Keeseville, from which I brought away the [illegible] rolling river, and the sign of a wooden horse, painted [illegible] his back, which hung out over the street from the [illegible] was then Forsythe's Hotel (then Tavern I think) and [illegible] cott's furniture store, which designated the shop of [illegible] harness maker of those days. That rolling river and [illegible] were made the topic of many a “Winter's Tale” in my [illegible] Green Mountains of Vermont, and is all I retain of [illegible]

My earliest night spent in Keeseville was in the [illegible] second floor of the stone house then occupied by [illegible] Nathan Hewitt, where I lay awake, after my brother [illegible] gone to sleep, that I might pity myself and lament over [illegible] little boy sent away to school at so tender an age, and [illegible] spend his nights in a “Green Room” in a strange house

[illegible] a fourth of July spent in Keeseville long ago, [illegible] almost the only time in my childhood, I was intrusted [illegible] quarter of a dollar in one day for my own pleasure; [illegible] however, though the responsibility was the heaviest [illegible] I had ever been called upon to assume, and involved [illegible] festivities and my friends and myself were com- [illegible] a four mile walk to Port Kent. But the number of [illegible] and sticks of molasses candy vended from shingles [illegible] hands, sprinkled with dust from passing teams and [illegible] in the road by the venders, would be incredible if told [illegible] a half-famished boy, who could shut his eyes to all [illegible] wash down the dust with pink lemonade better than the [illegible] times on Olympus.

[illegible] long table laid in Thomas Harvey's garden, where [illegible] lives, which on that day groaned with its load, [illegible] gathered all the magnates of the village, with the min- [illegible] roast pig with an ear of corn in his mouth at the [illegible] auctioneer who pulled me up on his cart and pre- [illegible] with a tin spoon, and told all the people that if my [illegible] those spoons and feed me with them a while it would [illegible] “living skeleton” to “Daniel Lambert,” the fat man [illegible] to my thinness which I then and always after-

[illegible] the proudest day of my life in Keeseville was [illegible] my first term in the Keeseville Academy, a young man [illegible] Sawyer was taking me to ride in his boat on the river, [illegible] the school, who boarded at Asahel Arthur's house, [illegible] Presbyterian church, came out on the piazza, called me [illegible] to me that I had taken the first prize in English [illegible] Barton for a close second—and gave it to me in the [illegible] called “Beauties of Robert Hall.” I learned after- [illegible] selected it from his own library.

[illegible] days of my life were those spent with my old [illegible] (whose birthday was on the same day of the [illegible] a year later, a fact which I mention on his account [illegible] with his matrimonial market, not yet made) when [illegible] Wednesday afternoon, or the whole of a Saturday, [illegible] times were our only holidays, we climbed [illegible] to the heights of “Prospect hill,” which [illegible] exceeding high mountain,” from which could [illegible] kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them, among the rest Plattsburgh in the distance; or else to the [illegible] (we did not call it "Ausable Chasm" in those days) [illegible] "Table Rock" from which later the Rev. Mr. [illegible] the "Devil's Oven," where it seemed to me that [illegible] or the "Pot-hole", whence Mr. Andrew Thompson [illegible] ball, rounded and shaped by the eddying, and [illegible] Keeseville Bank (now the law office of A. W. [illegible] company of the gigantic stone foot, which up to a very [illegible] in front of the shoe-shop, on Clinton street, occupied [illegible] John Drown.

In all my visions of Keeseville looms up the [illegible] "the new Academy" we called it then for it had taken [illegible] stone Academy, which had stood near its site but [illegible] material from the old building had been taken by Mr. [illegible] build the stone house now occupied as a part of the [illegible] school and the stone house called the Bero house, [illegible] that, when Mr. Hurlburt walked about amongst the [illegible] these houses, he kept repeating the words, "And they [illegible] they asked him, "Who parted?" he replied: [illegible] money," illustrating, he said, his own folly in building [illegible] those stones.

Ah, what a vision of beauty the "new Academy" [illegible] perienced eyes! It was then—not now—the finest building [illegible] of Fort Edward. The lower room was large and neat, [illegible] ceiling, white stages and yellow floors, white desks with [illegible] top of each, where a cut with a pen knife or a spot of ink [illegible] most favored pupil even, a rousing blow from the big [illegible] hands of Buel Smith, the principal of the school. [illegible] Academy, where I fitted for college, taught later [illegible] whose vestal band of teachers I stole the best of wives!

Of the senators, the judges, the governors, the divines, [illegible] men in many walks of life who have come out from the [illegible] Academy, it would, if we had the time, be pleasing to tell [illegible]

Through my recollections and dreams of Keeseville [illegible] Ausable river. It had a mystery; when it was very high [illegible] flowed quietly enough but, at a certain stage of its water, [illegible] houses in Keeseville shook and trembled in an alarming [illegible] explanations of the phenomenon were offered, none, I think, [illegible] As for me I would much rather solve the question, "When [illegible] century end?" than to explain why those doors and windows [illegible]

[illegible] Charles Thomas and Mr. Elisha Arnold told me why, [illegible] clearly understand and do not now fully remember. [illegible] night I can still hear the murmur of the Ausable river— [illegible] Tiber or Tweed had a sweeter sound. It seems to me on [illegible] our dead, sleeping in Evergreen cemetery, ought still to

[illegible] always the mood of the Ausable. Visions of broken [illegible] of wrecked barns and mills and homes, of bodies of [illegible] corpses of men, women and little children whirling [illegible] of the bridge, and the marble tablet there showing [illegible] rose in its wrath, tell a different tale.

[illegible] September, 1842, a "general muster" of a batallion of [illegible] York State Militia was held at Keeseville. Some [illegible] great stone arch of the bridge, while in process of con- [illegible] with a shock that made buildings at Port Kent, four [illegible] tremble. It was again partly built, but not [illegible] completion so that any use could be made of it except [illegible] who clambered down one side, walked the plank [illegible] clambered up the bank on the other side. A new sus- [illegible] done and standing where the present one does, was [illegible] of communication between the two sides of the river. [illegible] day was very high—a wild duck could not swim it. [illegible] Port Kent and my father had taken my older brother [illegible] the training and had left us standing on the sidewalk [illegible] & Adgate's store and had gone across the street to [illegible] which I have mentioned, with directions to stay right [illegible] back. The fifth commandment was kept in our family— [illegible] not observe it better than we did. Soon we heard the fife [illegible] marching feet of a little company of soldiers, followed [illegible] of village boys in motley. I was then too young to go [illegible] brother had attended the old Academy and several of the [illegible] with us, and we invited them to come to Port Kent [illegible] and our big dog and sail our toy boats. Two of the boys [illegible] Pope and Richard Peabody—I think they were each [illegible] Henry—each was eight years old, and they were great [illegible] told us the company was going to cross the "swing bridge" [illegible] to drill, asking us to go with them. We told them [illegible] as our father had told us to wait there for his return. [illegible] would not care. We wanted to go but told them we [illegible] must mind him. They ran on, laughing, after their [illegible] The fifes screamed, the drums rolled, the gay company laughed and shouted. They reached the swing bridge [illegible] on it; the strain of the measured step of the troops [illegible] strength; the upper chains gave way; one scream [illegible] were in the foaming river. No one but God knows [illegible] My father rushed out of the hotel, cast one glance [illegible] left us; then his face cleared up; he ran across the [illegible] hand and we all ran toward the river. More or less [illegible] the chains, and the chains still clung to the shores; [illegible] the people must have climbed. We could still see [illegible] hand; I thought I recognized our little friends; [illegible] over the dam; I still see the white hand holding up [illegible] got on the platform of an old yellow building owned by [illegible] Preston and Jacob Kingsland got first a boat and then [illegible] it, fastened ropes to them and were trying to guide them [illegible] men who were clinging to the chains of the bridge, [illegible] Chesterfield shore down beneath where we were standing [illegible] to the chain, a second man held to him, and a third [illegible] It seemed a long time that they clung so. I could [illegible] praying; I could hear the voice of one swearing. It [illegible] all could not be saved and that, if they clung together [illegible] saved. The third man let go, and in a moment he [illegible] man opened his arms, and he was lost; then the first [illegible] toward the shore hand over hand, dropped on the [illegible] One noble man had a rope tied around his waist and [illegible] rescue, but the rope was badly tied, or cut, and he [illegible] dam by the mad waters, and went into eternity in company [illegible] tried to save.

A boy in wet clothes rode to his home with us; he [illegible] middle of the bridge and walked ashore on the bottom [illegible] haps a current swept you ashore," said my father, [illegible] under a mistake." I think nine persons were [illegible] that day, and four more later. The little Pope and [illegible] found the next spring, I think, near the lake. They [illegible] grave, and over them was erected a stone on which was [illegible] David's lament over Saul and Jonathan:

"They were lovely in their lives and in death they [illegible]

This was the most exciting day I ever knew in Keeseville. [illegible]

Time, and what I believe the plan of your meeting [illegible] speaking of other days in Keeseville. With best regards, [illegible]

Very truly yours,

W. [illegible]

Plattsburgh, N. Y., February 19, 1900.

A GREAT LAWYER.

[illegible] DAUGHTERS:

[illegible] I spoke of the Keeseville Academy building. There [illegible] which I can always see when I think of Keeseville, [illegible] cluster traditions and memories. It is the old stone [illegible] the present residence of E. K. Romeyn—we called it [illegible]." It was at different times occupied by Simmons & [illegible] & Tabor, by Simmons & Ames, as a law office, [illegible] lines of law students, among them many of the most [illegible] law and business that this region has produced—to select [illegible] would make a reading about as interesting as Homer's [illegible]

[illegible] was himself the central figure. In law, learning [illegible] courts and juries he was the peer of his contemporaries, [illegible] Augustus Hand and Henry Ross—and no more can be [illegible] than that.

[illegible] metaphysics and psychology, in familiarity with the Bible [illegible] fields of quaint and unusual learning, in oddity [illegible] surely excelled anyone that Keeseville has ever pro- [illegible] brave, honest man, firm in his convictions and [illegible] purpose. He never told a lie or drank a glass of whiskey, [illegible] and I swept his office, copied his pleadings and listened [illegible] years.

[illegible] bachelor—born so, lived so, and died so. He had a benig- [illegible] robust figure. He died about 1860 and sleeps under [illegible] first on your left as you enter Evergreen cemetery. [illegible] Robert S. Hale, called him "Dr. Sam Johnson," and he [illegible] For years he boarded with Mr. Samuel Ames at the [illegible] of Front and Clinton streets now occupied by Mrs. [illegible] the curfew bell, which hung in the Presbyterian church [illegible] Richard Keese's dog began to howl, and Mr. Sim- [illegible] his office table, laid by his books and papers, donned [illegible] cloak and, smiling and talking to himself but [illegible] with long strides walked the whole distance to Mr. [illegible] middle of the street; the streets of Keeseville were [illegible] they are now, but no runaway horse or reckless driver [illegible] from Mr. Simmons.

[illegible] Mr. Simmons that he was stingy—he said himself he [illegible] told me that, when called upon to contribute to any village [illegible] of his widowed mother and his needy brothers and sisters, all depending on him for their support, [illegible] gripped a dollar after the necessity to do so had passed.

He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and an [illegible] admirer of Daniel Webster. He taught school at [illegible] Academy there. He told me that he stood in his [illegible] saw the messenger "go by like Pill Garlick," carrying [illegible] Manchester, Vermont, and saving Bourne from hanging [illegible] a deadly blow to circumstantial evidence that it acquired [illegible] for years after, as Mr. Simmons thought. His school [illegible] before school janitors were heard of, had to bring in the [illegible] the fires, a duty which they neglected till even Mr. Simmons [illegible] exhausted. One afternoon he called the school to order [illegible] boy in it to go out in the shed and bring in an armful of [illegible] did so. "Now," said he, "Let every boy take up an armful [illegible] carry it back to the woodshed." All did so, except [illegible] would not obey. Mr. Simmons, ruler in hand, escorted [illegible] hall. The school listened, but heard nothing. Mr. Simmons [illegible] boy, "Well, sir, are you going to carry that wood [illegible] "No," said the boy. "Well," said Mr. Simmons, "I [illegible] your place," and returned laughing to the school room [illegible] not tell what the effect was upon the discipline of the school [illegible]

Mr. Simmons was not a Chesterfield in his manners [illegible] Chesterfield, not to one of the towns in which Keeseville [illegible] had somewhat uncouth personal habits. It was his practice [illegible] a story that pleased him and his audience, to leap up [illegible] bursting into roars of laughter, rush round and round [illegible] ously slapping convenient portions of his lusty frame. As [illegible] or talked, he would pull his eyebrows, pinch his cheeks, [illegible] and pick his nostrils. The last mentioned feat at length [illegible] called a polypus, and, in his anxiety, he traveled to New [illegible] a doctor—March, perhaps—and, reaching the city, made [illegible] for the doctor's office. It was growing late, and the doctor [illegible] examination and dismissed Mr. Simmons till morning [illegible] Mr. Simmons said he went to bed at the hotel, but did [illegible] and early in the morning was back at the doctor's office [illegible] made a thorough inspection of the suffering proboscis. [illegible] said Mr. Simmons, is it a polypus, and is it curable? [illegible] you live?" said the doctor. "In Keeseville, 300 miles away [illegible] Canada line." "Well, sir," said the doctor, "you go [illegible] your nose alone—and hurry, or your nose will be [illegible] there." To have heard and seen Mr. Simmons tell this [illegible] tainly have called to your mind Mr. Boswell, and the antics [illegible]

[illegible] greater pleasure than to talk to boys. As the Ancient [illegible] wedding guest with his glittering eye, so Mr. Simmons [illegible] a boy in such a way that the boy could not escape him. [illegible] passed his office window after tea and saw him talking to [illegible] boys, and passing by an hour later and seeing the boys still [illegible] him and listening to him, I found that he had during all [illegible] explaining to them the meaning of the word "Selah," in [illegible] And it was said that, when he was a member of Congress, [illegible] would leave their duties and hang around his chair to hear [illegible]

[illegible] in Congress he was said to have been put on the tail [illegible] on Engravings—of which Mike Walsh was chair- [illegible] of which he knew nothing. But the next year he [illegible] of the Judiciary Committee, a subject of which he [illegible] His habits at Washington were as homespun as they [illegible] A distinguished lady invited him to a reception at her [illegible] way by a card reading, "Mrs. Blank will be at home [illegible], at 9 p. m. Mr. Simmons answered it: "So shall I,

[illegible] was not, I think, ever much inclined to matrimony. [illegible] thought he ought to be married, and induced him to go to [illegible] visit a learned and agreeable lady there, a lady whose [illegible] to mention—and one of my reasons for not giving it is [illegible] it. Her friends left her alone with Mr. Simmons all the [illegible] of popping the question they spent the whole time [illegible] Patriarch Job! And he returned to Keeseville the next day [illegible] thought to offer his heart and hand.

[illegible] great talker, but could hardly be considered a good conver- [illegible] reason that he talked all the while and would not permit [illegible] say a word. When his old friend, Judge Steele, of Windsor, [illegible] to Keeseville, they would sit, the one talking and the other [illegible] and Mr. Simmons would not tolerate an interruption

[illegible] was a Presbyterian and held other forms of belief in [illegible] I think. One Saturday evening the old judge and the [illegible] on the hotel stoop in earnest conversation, when Mr. Oliver [illegible] Judge Steele was an Episcopalian, broke in upon them [illegible] Steele to take a seat in his pew the next morning at the [illegible] and then, turning to Mr. Simmons, asked him politely to [illegible] pew. "No sir," said Mr. Simmons, "I won't sit in your pew [illegible] nothing on earth to do with your ruffled shirt religion."

The Presbytery of Champlain was once held at K[illegible] Moderator of the meeting, noticing Mr. Simmons in the [illegible] vited him to ascend the pulpit and address them—this M[illegible] an address which lasted all the afternoon and all the [illegible]

A gentleman running for a county office on the Whig [illegible] Simmons to Ellenburgh to address a Whig mass meeting [illegible] me that Mr. Simmons ascended the rostrum and addressed [illegible] Freemen for five hours, till he truly thought he should [illegible]

To buy or solicit a vote at an election was an [illegible] mons. A Keeseville gentleman, who had, I think, [illegible] Mr. Simmons' congressional election, asked him the next [illegible] him the illustrated "Japan Expedition," which was [illegible] of Congress, and Mr. Simmons refused him point-blank [illegible] to a "lovely boy," to whom he had taken a fancy—which [illegible] shortly after detected in stealing turkeys from the roost.

All of us in Keeseville were very proud of Mr. Simmons [illegible] when I sat alone in the upper room of his old office [illegible] most fascinating work, "The Commentaries of Blackstone [illegible] over to the Ausable House piazza (on the site of Mr. [illegible] and hear him, as usual, talking to the bar-room loungers [illegible] time running around the piazza, slapping his sides and [illegible] ter. The commotion ceased; Mr. Samuel Ames dashed [illegible] pen, ink and paper to draw Mr. Simmons' will, and told [illegible] just had a paralytic stroke. I thought if he should die the [illegible] stop. He revived, but in a few weeks he did die—but the [illegible] stop. Sad to say, it seemed to me he was scarcely missed [illegible] They carted away his old papers from the office attic; and [illegible] give away his old hat to "Crazy John," that ungrateful [illegible] And is it not so with all of us? We hope we shall be mourned [illegible] gone—but we shall not; we are not at all indispensable [illegible] not of much account. We are only keeping a place for [illegible] succeed us.

I had much to say of Mr. Simmons' students; of one [illegible] dare not give—who was kept reading Blackstone for half a [illegible] roguish compatriots slipping back his book-mark from time [illegible] his inability to tell whether he had ever read any part of it [illegible] of my classmate, Henry N. Hewitt, and of my dear old friend [illegible] tocks, Jr., and his pranks with our eccentric neighbor, [illegible] ham; of Samuel Ames, the handsomest, and perhaps the [illegible] of Mr. Simmons' boys, and certainly the one best liked by his [illegible] and of him I can only give the dispatch he sent us from New [illegible]

[illegible] Court House, although we never heard that he was

"Lee has surrendered
Richmond's in flames,
Glory to God.
Samuel Ames."

Most sincerely yours,
W. C. WATSON.

[illegible] N. Y., March 22, 1900.

* * *

THE ANARCHIST'S JUDGE

[illegible] for some humorous memory of my life in Keeseville, but [illegible] to recall anything very humorous in connection [illegible] days there. As I remember, there was little to amuse. [illegible] the campaign of 1840, we had a log-cabin like other [illegible] and marching at night. The young people did not [illegible] or old had card parties. The most diverting incident [illegible] was the weekly appearance of good Deacon Reynolds, [illegible] Conference at the Presbyterian church, shooting up [illegible] a jack from a box, saying while rising, "A thought just [illegible] [Someone remarks that this description is like a photograph [illegible] memory.]

[illegible] day, 1841, Fred Powers and I hired a covered sleigh [illegible] Whaling, and in it, with Elizabeth Pope, Abby Ball and [illegible] went to Plattsburgh. On the way the driver turned us [illegible] drift. [Snow drifts in November!] There was nothing [illegible] that!

[illegible] of 1839 I attended the Academy. Some of the grown [illegible] during prayers at the opening in the morning; eight or [illegible] called out and reprimanded. On this I made some eight [illegible] verses, which attained great favor among the girls and [illegible] author (not myself) much popularity. Only Hoag [illegible] them!

[illegible] my recollections of life in Keeseville are not rose-colored. To [illegible], as I remember, life seemed "a vale of tears." I was [illegible] St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., July 9, 1821. After I was six [illegible] life, except a few years in Potsdam again, was spent in the [illegible] valleys, until August, 1842. I have been in Keeseville very little since—once in the summer of [illegible] I have forgotten much.

The one incident of my life which has given me [illegible] subject of an article, written by me, in the Century, [illegible] Gary sentenced the anarchists in the famous Chicago [illegible]

I have traveled but learned little and suppose this [illegible] I wish I could do better. I am writing this with a [illegible] fore me. I have good health, and could never do [illegible] nor, (as I have good reason to believe is the opinion [illegible] more of it, than now, at the age of seventy-nine.

I am very truly your friend,

JOSEPH E. [illegible]

Superior Court of Cook County,
Joseph E. Gary, Judge.
In Chambers, Chicago, Ill.

* * *

HALF A CENTURY AGO

WHAT a flood of memories comes to mind [illegible] ago life in Keeseville! It is thirty-four years [illegible] and a half century since I first went from home [illegible]

The old, old Academy, how far back in [illegible] looks. Dorcas Taylor was my teacher in a primary [illegible] mer season she wore an old-fashioned shaker bonnet [illegible] and was quite my admiration. A new Academy was [illegible] presume, is now supplanted by a much more modern [illegible] another name. Rev. B. W. Smith taught in the new [illegible] by Monsieur Gregory, as we called him. No up-to-date [illegible] present day any more than equals that, as we thought [illegible]

We had no graded course of study, as now, and [illegible] ating classes; but we had examinations and the closing [illegible] declamations and compositions by the older boys and [illegible] interspersed with music and an occasional dialogue. [illegible] orate some wonderful speech made in Congress or in the [illegible] ment, the girls read their compositions on the "Four [illegible] equally lofty themes. I well remember one dialogue [illegible] language, which was much enjoyed by the participants. [illegible] one of these evenings' exercises, as it was quite the [illegible] different ones were called upon to "make a few remarks [illegible]

[illegible] a few commendatory words and then, much to the relief of [illegible] audience and actors, only one other trustee responded. One [illegible] of his still lingers in memory, "In conclusion, I am [illegible] pleased with the vocal singing."

[illegible] most enjoyable class in "Geography of the Heavens" and [illegible] evenings tracing constellations. There was the added [illegible] looking through Elisha Arnold's telescope; he was always very [illegible] patient with the boys and girls.

[illegible] memory of the dear old Academy is that of being associated, [illegible], with Prof. Gilbert Thayer—the last year of my life in [illegible]

[illegible] will be some interest to hear of the first circulating [illegible] of in the town. It was in an old building just across [illegible] the Congregational church. It was called then "Farnham's [illegible] Two or three shelves held all the books; the selection, as I [illegible] comprised stories not objectionable for young people.

[illegible] three characters and three events in my Keesville life that [illegible] There was a certain mystery about the these persons [illegible], affected me peculiarly. They were seemingly alone and [illegible] what was the history of each?

[illegible] will remember one Jimmy Low—it may be he was near of [illegible] whose name is quite familiar to you all. This man lived [illegible] west of the Academy, had a kind of cabinet shop and [illegible] in his line. There were steps on the outside of the front of [illegible] I used to be sent there when a child sometimes on an errand. [illegible] up the stairs slowly and opened the door with a kind of awe. [illegible] in the farther end of the building, a wizened-looking figure, [illegible] some book.

[illegible] was "Crazy John" as he was called. He was harmless [illegible] no one and all were kind to him. He lived in a log shanty, [illegible] himself in a swampy ground back of my home. As children [illegible] down to see him and hear his strange talk. He used to [illegible] places for breakfast and dinner. I enjoyed his coming to [illegible] always gave him a cheery "good morning." [illegible] look up to the ceiling with peculiarly strained eyes, mumb- [illegible] words. Sometimes he would be a little more "off" than [illegible]

A favorite expression of his was "I have jumped from the [illegible] the Academy this morning."

[illegible] see him smile, but he charmed us children with his Jew's [illegible] which wiled away a good many hours of his loneliness. [illegible] he came in to dinner. The kitchen had just been cleaned and

my mother said, "O, John, do clean your feet!" [illegible]
him, and my father made some diverting remark [illegible]
"Crazy John" replied, "O, never mind, it eases [illegible]
retort has been remembered more than half a century [illegible]

I believe he was finally taken to the poor-house, [illegible]
to death. Mr. Silas Arnold ordered, at his own expense [illegible]
have his coffee every morning and tobacco regularly [illegible]

Then there was Ephraim Tenney whom everybody [illegible]
was "faithful," always, "in that which was least." [illegible]
Congregational church bell and help the organist. [illegible]
these have long ago gone to their rest.

One of the three events that I referred to was the [illegible]
bridge, when a number of lives were lost in the river. [illegible]
was called "training day" and a large number [illegible]
greatest excitement prevailed.

A still greater catastrophe was the flood, which [illegible]
Keeseville must still feel. It raised the river beyond [illegible]
many lives. Many rich were made poor and the poor [illegible]

The third event was much earlier. The dedication [illegible]
Cemetery which I attended. To this day it is most [illegible]
it. Temporary seats were arranged for the assemblage. [illegible]
occasion was composed by our highly esteemed [illegible]
Rev. John Mattocks; he also made an address. But [illegible]
that kept up a continual accompaniment throughout [illegible]
deeper impression upon one listener. Perhaps the [illegible]
more because a sister had been buried there about [illegible]
think she was the first one buried in Evergreen Cemetery [illegible]

May I suggest to the King's Daughters a very [illegible]
they might do if they felt inclined? Namely, to collect [illegible]
and circulate them among those who have written [illegible]
would be a great pleasure to read the letters of old [illegible]

If anyone is present at the meeting who remembers [illegible]
ham, will that one please accept special greetings for [illegible]
a former fellow citizen.

[illegible]

* * *

THE OLD PRINTER

I RECEIVED your request for a letter giving some [illegible]
recollections of Keeseville, and cheerfully [illegible]
physical and mental ability as remains to me [illegible]
years of my life. My first appearance in Keeseville [illegible]
in the spring of 1839. I was in Burlington, Vt., when [illegible]

[illegible] I was recommended to go to Keeseville. I went, and
[illegible] printing materials were in the possession of an old lawyer,
[illegible] was Emmons). I conclude that the printer who used
[illegible] and they had got into the possession of the lawyer.
[illegible] the prospect of success for a newspaper at Keeseville
[illegible] therefore, I left and went on to Plattsburgh, where I
[illegible] lasted over two years, in the office of the Plattsburgh

[illegible], Mr. W. Lansing's son, who published a paper at
[illegible] me at Burlington, Vt., and offered me a better compen-
[illegible] obtain in Burlington to go to Keeseville and assist his
[illegible] of issuing the Essex County Republican, as his father
[illegible] to a United States office and needed assistance. I
[illegible] and went, spent about three years in that service, during
[illegible] Lansing and his wife made an excursion of several weeks
[illegible] me in sole charge of the business. I do not suppose I
[illegible] as well as Mr. Lansing himself would have done it.

[illegible] time of my residence in Keeseville I was asked to write an
[illegible] in the Good Templar's lodge, then flourishing in the
[illegible], wrote an article entitled "The First Case of Intoxi-
[illegible] I considered the case of Eve, who was intoxicated by
[illegible] that by disobeying God's command she would
[illegible], "knowing good and evil." That article I afterward
[illegible] Eve's temptation of Adam. On coming to Milwaukee
[illegible] newspaper whose publisher was willing to use the
[illegible] subjects that would serve as warnings against yielding
[illegible] of "the world, the flesh and the devil," and some fif-
[illegible] thus secured a newspaper circulation. On one occasion I
[illegible] on the wisdom of presenting the teaching of the bible
[illegible] subject, and I submitted the article to the Bishop of
[illegible] his opinion. He gave me his advice and wished to exam-
[illegible] which he did, and gave the opinion that they would be
[illegible] This was the origin of the small book of which I sold a
[illegible] Keeseville in 1890.

[illegible] occurred the first death in my family, when our youngest
[illegible] died, and was buried in the cemetery in Keeseville. In
[illegible] died in Burlington, Vt., and her body was taken to Keese-
[illegible] beside her daughter, and it is possible that my daughter may
[illegible] to Keeseville to be buried in the only piece of real estate that
[illegible] thoughts frequently recur to that spot where I left my loved

As to the persons whom I remember, there were [illegible] recollect, but few whose names I can now recall. Rev. [illegible] the Episcopal minister who preached at Keeseville and [illegible] Rev. Mr. Fox was the Methodist minister; the Baptist [illegible] well acquainted with, but I cannot now recall his name. [illegible] wife, Mr. Ames and wife, the widow Sheldon and daughter [illegible] became my son's wife, who at that time resided at Ausable [illegible] Mrs. Lansing, and lastly my brothers-in-law, Charles and [illegible] There is living here a man by the name of A. J. Hayes, [illegible] Keeseville, and an intimate acquaintance of my son-in-law [illegible]

Of my descendants, I have three children—one dead, [illegible] children—two dead; five great-grandchildren—one dead.

I should be pleased to receive a copy of the Republican [illegible] count of the result of your efforts to secure reminiscences.

Respectfully,

ELIJAH [illegible]

Milwaukee, February 7, 1900.

(Mr. Rawson died and was brought here for burial [illegible] before the publication of these letters.)

* * *

EARLIER TIMES IN KEESVILLE

I HAVE been asked to furnish some account of past [illegible] ville—some notice of pleasant days within my [illegible]

On consulting my memory I find there many [illegible] remember a little—many pleasant times which are [illegible] alone, that I am afraid the account of them would not [illegible] others. And, as I am assured of the largest liberty in this [illegible] I will go back to the very first that I can remember, and try [illegible] of the things that gave me pleasure im childhood.

At that time we were living on the farm, near [illegible] owned and occupied by Wesley Bigelow. I used to [illegible] with my father and mother at a very early age; but [illegible] very vividly in my mind until, one winter day when I was [illegible] my uncle, Hollis Adsit, who lived down in the Barnes [illegible] along with a team of horses and a two-seated sleigh on his [illegible] ville. He had with him his two boys—my cousins—and [illegible] our house and asked mother to let my cousin (who lived [illegible]

[illegible] to Keeseville as a special treat. I can remember now the [illegible] which I heard her consent, and it did not take us very [illegible]

[illegible] our dress as it was quite different from that worn by [illegible] present time. The dresses proper were alike, and were [illegible] reddish-brown all-wool delaine, made with a perfectly plain [illegible] and a straight, gathered skirt. Our shoes were [illegible] laced and without heels; they only came up to our [illegible] skirts were short; but a neat expanse of wide white [illegible] the intervening space and came nearly down to the [illegible] hair was cut round in our necks, parted in the middle and [illegible] behind our ears, as was the custom at that time. Later [illegible] to grow long and was braided in two braids. For wraps we [illegible] called "pelisses" of blue worsted goods, lined and [illegible] with a narrow blue gimp put on in rows. Tied [illegible] were little wool tippets of blue and white, and on our [illegible] puffed or melon hoods of light, changeable silk, which came [illegible] We were very warm and comfortable and had the [illegible] feeling well dressed.

[illegible] delightful day; I can recall now how brightly the sun [illegible] the clear whiteness of the snow almost dazzled our eyes—[illegible] youngsters, brimful of high spirits and fun were just too [illegible] still.

[illegible] remember much that we did in Keeseville except to go about [illegible] as he went from place to place on business, but I do clearly [illegible] just before he was ready to go home, he took all four of us [illegible] store, which was where the post office is now, and whose [illegible] of the most tempting display of confectionery. There he [illegible] to set out on the counter before us the most bewildering [illegible] "barley sugar," I think they called it—birds and beasts [illegible] what not, and told us to take our choice among them. [illegible] difficult thing to do, as you may imagine. The boys [illegible] and each took a woolly dog, white, with dashes of a dark [illegible] but to us the most attractive things were two little [illegible] about three inches high, one with a blue band around the [illegible] with a red one; I took the red one and my cousin the [illegible] They were great treasures, and we were sure we should keep [illegible] We did get them home safely; but, alas! their sweetness [illegible] and from taking tiny bites around the edges, we decided [illegible] thus mutilated was of no use, and before long they dis-[illegible] together.

When I was ten years old it was thought best that I [illegible] the district school at Port Douglass and go to the Keeseville [illegible]

I boarded in the family of my uncle, Norman [illegible] the house that has been known as the Daniel Dodge [illegible] years, and which was known then as the Judge Fish house [illegible] roomy, old-fashioned mansion with high ceilings, wide [illegible] air of antiquity that was very pleasant. I was very happy [illegible] old-fashioned garden with its snowballs, lilacs and syringa [illegible] fleur-de-lis and lilies, was a continual delight to me, besides [illegible] place in which to play "I spy." I went home every Friday [illegible] came back on Monday morning, as many pupils did in those [illegible]

Keeseville Academy was a very prosperous institution [illegible] said to have reached the zenith of its prosperity under the [illegible] of Gilbert Thayer, who was the principal when I first began [illegible] school.

He was a man of considerable business ability, and [illegible] the school known, and succeeded in securing pupils from [illegible] lying towns around Keeseville and even from a considerable [illegible] So we had McLenathans and McLeods from Jay; [illegible] from the Forks; Hellers and Durands from Clintonville [illegible] Hallocks from Peru; Watsons and Ansons from Port [illegible] and Hales from Elizabethtown; Bullards and Kyles from [illegible] Bishops, Murdocks and Treadways from Port Henry [illegible] Schroon; besides a host of others whom I can not remember [illegible] after the days of Joseph Cook (or Flavius Josephus [illegible] called then) and L. N. Beaudry, and the lyceum of debating [illegible] which I have always heard much from older scholars.

In the days of which I write—which must have been [illegible] 1858—the faculty consisted of Mr. Thayer, who was principal [illegible] ham, Mr. McVine, Mr. Winslow C. Watson, Jr., and [illegible] lady who was assistant to Miss Brigham; though of this [illegible]

Mr. Thayer was a strict disciplinarian and did all the [illegible] self; he was a very choleric man and easily excited, [illegible] taking a boy across his knee, and with a substantial [illegible] punishment where it would do the most good, while [illegible] face to the verge of apoplexy as it seemed. Many a boy [illegible] Mr. Thayer's knee who is now a staid and dignified [illegible] I will mention no names, but if any of the delinquents [illegible] will need no reminder of the mornings when, after the [illegible] they were called up and took their turn across Mr. Thayer's [illegible] face of the whole school! He also had a way of seating [illegible]

[illegible] the edge of the platform, and obliging him to keep his [illegible] Mr. Thayer went on with classes or whatever business engaged his attention; the punishment consisted in Mr. Thayer suddenly [illegible] his foot at an unexpected moment, when the luckless urchin [illegible] platform to the floor—as the platform at that time was about [illegible] it made a fall that hurt.

[illegible] was made much of in those days, also mental arithmetic. We [illegible] speller and were required to give the definitions or synonyms [illegible] spelled. Mr. Thayer always took charge of the spelling [illegible] and it was with great satisfaction that he used to take his [illegible] the large spelling class of fifty or seventy-five or even more [illegible] used to occupy the seats in the centre of the large room down [illegible] boys sat on one side and the girls on the other, and, after [illegible] lesson was over, we used to "test," that is one of the girls [illegible] to one of the boys to spell and define; if he answered correctly [illegible] a word to another girl, and so on as long as we had time. [illegible] incidents resulted from this way of learning to spell.

[illegible] mental arithmetic class was a very pleasant one; it was taught [illegible] Brigham and we used Colburn's arithmetic. In connection with [illegible] comes to me a very pleasant day, or afternoon, when Miss [illegible] took her mental arithmetic class out into the woods beyond the [illegible] across the brook. It was a much more beautiful situation [illegible] it is now, for there were many large trees with broad and spread[illegible] which have since been cut down. I do not know whether I [illegible] all the members of that class, but there were Lucy Spencer, Alice Matthews, Emma Kingsland, Libbie Holden, Emma [illegible] Ella Finch, Fanny Tomlinson, Emma Sutton, Juliana Keese and [illegible] There were also two boys, Charlie Morris and Sam Prescott. Of [illegible] I think only one is living in Keeseville at the present day. I [illegible] that we had our lesson first and then investigated the contents [illegible] baskets we had brought with us. Mine contained, among other [illegible] particularly delicious strawberry tarts which Aunt Mary made [illegible] which the whole company tasted and pronounced good. Then [illegible] we had games, mostly games in which there was running to be [illegible] enjoyed games of that kind as well as the boys.

[illegible] remember the Academy at that time it appears to me to have been [illegible] good school and its work thoroughly done. I suppose however, it [illegible] bear comparison with the modern system, even if we were good [illegible] proficient in mental arithmetic; but it was a very pleasant [illegible] we led there, and we had our small ambitions too, for there [illegible] who burned the "midnight oil" in their endeavors to excel in [illegible] though there was nothing compulsory about it.

There were very pretty girls in the Academy at the time of [illegible] writing. In talking with an elderly gentleman the other day, [illegible] student at that time, he told me he had never seen as pretty [illegible] he remembered at Keeseville Academy. He spoke of their [illegible] calico dresses, and the freshness and beauty of face and [illegible] captivated his youthful fancy. I ventured to suggest that, [illegible] he might have magnified the charms which seem so real to him [illegible] looks back over the forty intervening years. But he scouted [illegible] so much warmth that I did not pursue it further, more especially [illegible] remember the piquant beauty of Juliet Ray, the stately [illegible] Learned or the modest charm of Fanny Ballard, of whom [illegible] hearing Mr. Thayer say: "A prettier girl never entered [illegible] Keeseville Academy." I also remember Josephine [illegible] Weston, Julia Nelson, Annie Hurlburt and Maria M[illegible] girls but differing greatly in appearance.

I can not leave this period without calling to mind one [illegible] the history of Keeseville, when the Ausable river was filled [illegible] and when the whole space above the arch bridge to the dam [illegible] roaring sea, threatening to carry everything before it. [illegible] rightly they did not drive teams across the arch bridge for [illegible] hours, as it was deemed unsafe. I do not remember the exact [illegible] but the white marble tablet on the abutment of the arch bridge [illegible] perpetuates the memory of a day filled with disaster to the [illegible] the Ausable valley.

There is no time to speak of many things I would like to [illegible] I must at least mention a teacher in Keeseville Academy who [illegible] later date, but who was such a remarkable man that I can not [illegible] I refer to Louis Pollens. I do not know when he came to [illegible] he was principal of the Academy during the Civil War. He [illegible] and a man of high attainments. His education was [illegible] for that time, and he had, in a wonderful degree, the power [illegible] himself upon the plastic minds of his pupils, and causing [illegible] from him impressions and opinions which they have carried [illegible] life. I remember what he taught me better than anything [illegible] any other teacher; and I often hear this referred to when I [illegible] one of his old pupils. Who that was in his history class [illegible] mine of wealth he uncovered to us? How he would glance at [illegible] notice the subject of the lesson, and then, casting it aside, [illegible] bound with his eloquent presentation of the subject, telling [illegible] than the book contained, and in such an attractive way [illegible] seemed all too short! He did not ask many questions, but [illegible]

[illegible] knowledge and causing us to remember it. In the minds of his pupils he kindled a love of all the best in literature; and [illegible] them the treasures of the past. Peace to his ashes.

[illegible] has made great changes in Keeseville; the old generation has [illegible] and the boys of '57 and '58 are elderly men and not many of [illegible]; whole families have disappeared and their names are only to [illegible] the cemetery. Even the river—beautiful, limpid stream that [illegible] no longer the same, for the trail of the pulp mill is over it all, and [illegible] to leave it instead of lingering to gaze into its clear depths. [illegible] hills—the everlasting hills are there yet, and Fordway still forms [illegible] to the picture that we look upon from the arch bridge. [illegible] is unchanged in its rugged outline, and Whiteface is [illegible] of beauty as it lifts its blue cone to meet the clouds. We [illegible] wanderers from our old home, go back to the hills as to old [illegible] our message is: Rejoice and be glad ye who dwell among

M. A. ADGATE.

♣ ♣ ♣

EPHRAIM, THE OLD BELL RINGER

BY REV. H. E. BUTLER, D. D., JACKSONVILLE, ILL.

EVERYBODY in the village of Keeseville knew who Ephraim was; the old men knew, and the young boys knew. Even the school children could tell where his home was, and describe his figure so that a stranger would be sure to make no mistake in addressing [illegible] It seemed to the younger generation that they had always known [illegible] and that when the forests, which once covered the hills between [illegible] the river flowed, were first cleared, and human homes began to be [illegible] in the fertile valley, Ephraim must have been some sort of a relic [illegible] a former habitation. But those who had watched the village [illegible] remembered a time when a lithe little figure, with keen, bright eyes, [illegible] strange, startled air about him, got off from the big four-horse stage-[illegible] which made daily trips between the lake and the village, and began [illegible] about, as if he were either seeking a new home or some obscure [illegible] where he could with ease hide himself from the curious eyes, which [illegible] to feel were constantly looking for him.

Pretty soon, however, a little sign was nailed above the door of a [illegible] shop, and then the villagers knew that "Ephraim Tenny, [illegible] Shop," was at their disposal for jobs they might intrust to him.

But work was slow in coming. He never asked for it, [illegible] appearance in all his demeanor became so prominent that [illegible] villager sought his shop, he would seem to avoid [illegible] rather than to welcome it as something he desired. [illegible] had been broken, and friendly relations established, [illegible] cheer and a laugh, as if somewhere in his soul there [illegible] gladness, which would now and then burst through its [illegible] himself. Of course under these circumstances, work was [illegible] and pretty soon his shop was given up, and he sought [illegible] others.

But the hunted air never seemed to leave him. [illegible] corners he would often be seen standing for a moment [illegible] then would start off rapidly, seeking to get out of the way, [illegible] self from human sight.

Very soon after coming to the village he attached [illegible] of which the writer afterwards was pastor, and during a [illegible] interest, gained courage to seek admission to its [illegible] forward that church became the object of his most devoted [illegible] it as a husband loves his wife, as a parent loves his [illegible] really loved—nothing else. For money, for comfort, [illegible] care in comparison with the house of God. He seemed [illegible] caressing way with which a mother fondles her child. [illegible] not only upon the Sabbath, but during the week, and [illegible] became so manifest and he was given the care of its bell [illegible] blowing of its organ, it seemed that more happiness [illegible] man's eyes than they had ever known before.

As the years went on and his work had dwindled to [illegible] jobs, like the filing of saws, as were almost thrust upon [illegible] be associated in the minds of the villagers more and more [illegible] and if any wanted to find him, they would go to some [illegible] call " Ephraim! " expecting him to appear in his noiseless [illegible] to their call. Sometimes he would be found at the organ, [illegible] pipes by his own blowing and then touching its keys as if [illegible] to his caress. Sometimes he would take his station [illegible] register in the lower room and listen to the sermon all [illegible] he would sleep there, frequently take his meals in the [illegible] clock tower contained his wardrobe; the unused [illegible] pastor's study were his bank of deposit, and an old [illegible] tion of the church tower, was his safe.

One night there was a fierce fire in the village and [illegible] the church was wrapped in flames. The inhabitants [illegible]

[illegible] their homes. Ephraim looked to the protection of his home. [illegible] dawn of the morning, through the drifting smoke and among [illegible] falling sparks, the form of a little man was discovered way up [illegible] pole of the high church, anxiously looking for each falling [illegible] with his pail of water in readiness to put it out, if danger [illegible] to ensue. He had no wife, no child in danger, he had no [illegible] he had love, and all this centered in the church; and, with a [illegible] which no one supposed the shrinking, timid figure so long [illegible] the people in Keeseville possessed, he had rushed to the defense [illegible] was dearest to him, risking himself where few dared venture. [illegible] was told of when the danger was all passed, and from that day [illegible] to have acquired a higher plane of living, and the fearful, [illegible] which he had worn so long seemed somewhat to disappear.

[illegible] Sunday morning, not long after, it was noticed that the church [illegible] ring with wonted fulness of tone, and one of the young men [illegible] the ringer's place to find the reason. The old bell-ringer's [illegible] utterly failed. He had tried to do his work, but his strength [illegible] and he could not finish the task. He had dragged himself to [illegible] his steps were nearing the golden heights. He was borne [illegible] the church to the humble room where a portion of his earthly [illegible] kept, and gently laid upon his bed. But when the night came, [illegible] who knew of his condition thought him asleep, he crept out of [illegible] again went over to his home, the church.

[illegible] night with his loved he felt he must enjoy. It was his last. [illegible] kind friends found him and cared for him, and the brow, [illegible] woman's hand had not touched since the long years ago when a [illegible] hand was laid in blessing on his head, was smoothed in tender-[illegible] who had learned to know the soul that was enshrined within. [illegible] this trembling man, whose past it had often been surmised con-[illegible] mystery, seemed to come clear out of the shrinking years and [illegible] a few days, though close upon the borders of the grave, in the [illegible] power of one redeemed, not only from his sins, but from the [illegible] left far behind, arising from his contact with a sometimes cruel [illegible] I would love to be buried beside my mother, if it can be," he [illegible] if not, then on the hillside where so many I have loved have [illegible] thank you, thank them all. I am safe now, and going home. I [illegible] everything that I want, for God is with me."

[illegible] day or two more the old bell-ringer was laid away to rest. His [illegible] tolled, and it seemed to have a human voice telling its grief. [illegible] was played, and it told of victory and rest and peace. His [illegible] doors opened, and when they closed the bell-ringers memory had become a sacred thing, which some will cherish as long as [illegible] for it tells them how an obscure, timid man lived a [illegible] crown which kings have failed to gain.

* * *

CHILDHOOD DAYS

As I look back a host of pictures come before me. [illegible] and women, long since "gone away" and of the [illegible] as it looked to me in my childhood, and of the [illegible] impressed my childish mind. Pictures that [illegible] today as though it were only yesterday that I saw them.

I remember well living in the Sampson house at [illegible] street, then called the Dodd's house, though I was [illegible] when the change was made to the new home on Ausable [illegible] plainly the cracker factory on Main street, just beyond [illegible] with the horse patiently plodding his ceaseless round [illegible] was of such amazing interest to my childish mind [illegible] remains clear and sharp.

Ephraim is associated to me in some way with my [illegible] as though he must have worked about, outside the [illegible] nearby.

Opposite the new house was the "old brewery" [illegible] beer. It was an ugly looking structure not softened as [illegible] pretty green vines. In the extreme south end were [illegible] upper, and one lower. Daniel Sawyer lived in one, [illegible] helpes in the brewery in the others, the rest of the [illegible] the brewery proper. I remember how mysterious it [illegible] privilege to go and see the vats full of liquid, and the [illegible] smell the strong odor of the beer. I also remember [illegible] and think that many depended on the yeast obtained [illegible]

Another thing clearly and sharply seen, is the old [illegible] in our pew on the side of the pulpit, with [illegible] family back of us, and Mr. and Mrs. Stranahan in [illegible] greyheaded, with his hands folded over his gold headed [illegible] resting upon them. Mr. Mattocks in the pulpit, [illegible] remember seemed always to have been filled with [illegible] came the building of the new church, and its [illegible] sunny day. I recall the face of "Old Father Place," [illegible]

[illegible] and sing-song tones, and also Deacons Olmsted, Reynolds and [illegible] even their peculiarities of manner and speech. And as I shut [illegible] I can see the people as they sit in their pews, so many years ago; [illegible] families that have no representative remaining.

[illegible] Sunday Nelly Mattocks cried in church, and Mr. Mattocks [illegible] his sermon to say twice, "Brewer take Nelly home," and [illegible] Nelly home, and the sermon went on. Such very little things [illegible] impress on the childish mind.

[illegible] children didn't know Mr. Mattocks very well, and were always a [illegible] of the minister. Possibly children stood more in awe of their [illegible] those days than now, and it was an unheard of thing for them to [illegible] the evening. Donation parties in our church were also unknown. [illegible] evening they gave Mr. Mattocks a "surprise party," and the next [illegible] we children were invited. I went in a plain green merino gown, [illegible] or furbelows, and when it came time for supper, they asked [illegible] and tallest girl, to go out to the table with the oldest boy— [illegible] my husband—and I was much ashamed that I was somewhat [illegible] of the two. We had a fine time that afternoon, and I can dis- [illegible] the faces of our pastor and his wife.

[illegible] old, and as it seems to me, white wooden bridges is another [illegible] picture. I can recall the building of the new one, and of [illegible] the temporary pathway used while the arch was being [illegible]

And here I would like to put in a plea for the preservation of that [illegible] arch that they tell me is slowly and surely going to decay. It is [illegible] of beauty that you should be proud of, and might last for ages [illegible] care. When it is gone, and an iron structure takes its place, [illegible] realize what you have lost, and regret its going—"A word to [illegible] is sufficient."

[illegible] John" was a friend of my childhood. We children spent a great [illegible] talking with him in his little hut on the hillside, and he was [illegible] kind and gentle with us. He had a round of friends he visited, [illegible] him his meals, and he would do some little thing about the [illegible] return for what was given him. My husband used to tell of [illegible] pancakes for his breakfast, he and his sister, Emma tell they fried [illegible] five before John's appetite was satisfied. [illegible] John was easily offended, and nothing could induce him to go [illegible] the house where they had given offense. As he grew old he was [illegible] taken to the "poor-house," where he died, and the children missed [illegible] friend.

[illegible] Anna Woodman was another friend of the children. Mary Ann [illegible], Anna Arthur, Julia and Nelly Mattocks. Julia Cowlbeck and I were her daily visitors, carrying some little thing for her [illegible] return she allowed us to rummage over her treasures, [illegible] bureau, and she would tell us stories of her early life, [illegible] prominent man and well-to-do physician, and how every [illegible] Boston, bringing back to her New Hampshire home the [illegible] to the feminine heart then as today, and of her riding [illegible] "Hio," as she always called Ohio, and to [illegible] pathetically, of how she had received attention from [illegible] and lawyers and here she was today an old maid and [illegible] friends for her daily bread. Dear old lady, I see her now, [illegible] dignified, still bearing traces of youthful beauty. We did [illegible] least that she had been a beauty and a belle, and our [illegible] her in sympathy. When she was ill we cared for her in [illegible] down near your railroad station, and were with her [illegible] Julia Cowlbeck was with her, I think, the night she died.

I can see now the house cleanings we used to have, [illegible] patient soul let us turn her house upside down, but [illegible] the better for the upheaval I cannot say, we enjoyed it, [illegible] have our good times without hindrance.

Memories come crowding, and my thoughts go on and [illegible] would be no end. Every hill, tree and stone has its story [illegible] me. Dear old Keeseville, I love her more than I can tell! [illegible] have as warm a place in the hearts of her sons and daughters [illegible]

Affectionately,
EMMA LEARNED [illegible]

* * *

MEMORY PICTURES

IT IS EASY to write of the memories of Keeseville. [illegible] to early boyhood and forward to mature manhood, [illegible] of some twelve or fourteen years of my life. The [illegible] years, as student and teacher, the associations and [illegible] the varied scenes and experiencies are as fresh in remembrance [illegible] were all of yesterday.

My advent to the old Academy, as pupil under [illegible] Thayer, is the first of the memory pictures of Keeseville. [illegible] date to the picture, but it was in the last of the fifties, I [illegible]

[illegible] at a corresponding date, I should now be classed among the [illegible]."

[illegible] a typical country boy of the period, coming up from Lewis, then [illegible] place to go from than to stay in, making my first venture alone [illegible] wide world. I boarded myself, lived high—in somebody's garret I [illegible] got books and tuition on credit and generally managed so badly [illegible] all of a winter's teachings at thirteen dollars a month to square [illegible] spring for a short term's schooling the previous fall. But I [illegible] after a time, to the Academy. Somehow, I do not remember [illegible] my condition in course of time improved so far as to justify my [illegible] down from the garret to take quarters with the family of Squire [illegible] and afterward with the Weston's. These families, with the companions and good friends I found among them, will always hold [illegible] place in the picture.

[illegible] a memory picture of the school companions, the boys and [illegible] those days. The list was a long one, but individual names, I [illegible] confess, are now a little obscured by time. As I remember them, [illegible] there were more than the average number of good and brilliant [illegible] and bright, sweet girls whose subsequent career in the various [illegible] of life more than verified the promise of student days. It would [illegible] difficult, I think, to make up from the Academy catalogs of those [illegible] list of names that have become historic. In the picture, some of [illegible] stand in bold relief well in the foreground, others back in [illegible], while altogether they form a constellation of which any insti[illegible] might well be proud.

[illegible] a pleasant memory picture of the teachers of those days, [illegible] women of striking contrasts, but for the most part, strong, [illegible] devoted, whose character and personality were in themselves [illegible] forces. There was Mr. Thayer, politic, persuasive, personally [illegible] not a great scholar, not a great teacher, but unusually successful [illegible] greater men have often failed. He left Keeseville and came to [illegible] early in the sixties, I believe, where he spent most of his subse[illegible] life in the conduct of schools for young women. He died, a few [illegible] ago in Morgan Park, a suburb of Chicago, where his family still live. [illegible] Watson is a central figure in this group of teachers, a man of different [illegible] from Mr. Thayer, the scholar, the inspiring teacher, the congenial [illegible] and sympathetic friend. I still remember the word he spoke [illegible] kindled my ambition and largely determined my course of life. Among [illegible] prominent figures of the group are Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Seaton, Mr. [illegible], all with scholarly accomplishments, force and dignity of character, [illegible] personality, whose instruction and companionship made enduring [illegible] upon the young people of the old Academy.

There is a memory picture crowded with characters, [illegible] dents which language cannot well describe, nor shades of [illegible] It is of my return to Keeseville, after college graduation, as [illegible] Academy and subsequently of the Union High School. [illegible] memories of five years of sweetest joys and deepest [illegible] companionship and an absolute loneliness; of good friends [illegible] whose sympathy, counsel and encouragement sustained in the [illegible] of labors which have not, I trust, proved altogether unfruitful [illegible] multitude of boys and girls, my pupils, whose instruction [illegible] and guidance were mine. Many of my pupils I remember [illegible] followed them all the years past with feelings of interest [illegible] remember well many of the patrons and families of the [illegible] of Education and how well they co-operated with and sustained [illegible] responsible position I held. The church and the pastor have [illegible] place in the picture, with some of the peculiar people that [illegible] gregation and membership, the Sunday-school and the [illegible] which these peculiar people were generally in evidence. [illegible] of these good souls were long since translated and their [illegible] proved sure.

I could go on indefinitely rehearsing the memories of [illegible] space and time forbid. They do not fade as the years [illegible] pictures hold so large a place in the chambers of remembrance. [illegible] turn here or there without reviving them. And, if it be true [illegible] that this life is one and continuous with the eternal, then the [illegible] Keeseville will forever and forever remain as an unfailing [illegible] and pleasure. I can assure all my good friends still remaining [illegible] such a thought is a congenial one and I fondly cherish it.

E. F. [illegible]

* * *

LETTER FROM MR. GEORGE [illegible]

MRS. E. K. BABER.

DEAR SISTER GUSSIE:—Your letter calls for [illegible] I am entirely "out of 'em." When asked to tell yarns, I [illegible] look around and see to whom I am to tell them and [illegible] down!

The most that I remember about Keeseville is not about [illegible] all. I wasn't born or brought up "no village kid," but [illegible]

[illegible] I know about being brought up on a farm, digging potatoes and [illegible] I am with you.

[illegible] of the very first things that I remember about Keeseville is that, [illegible] opinion, it was located too far from "Arthur's Corners" ever to [illegible] much of a place, notwithstanding it straddled a river, and had two [illegible] and two counties to spread itself in; and sure enough it never seemed [illegible] alarmingly. Still, we boys used to go those long three miles, get [illegible] about as we stared at the signs, "Pope and Peabody, Keese and [illegible]," and the like, and then go home to wonder how folks could be [illegible] to live in such a crowded place when there was lots of room [illegible] especially at the "Corners." And speaking of the "Corners," [illegible] it to do over again, I'd begin right there; have the same good [illegible] and lovely mother; the same brothers and sister to "boss around;" [illegible] very same sweet Quaker girls for school-mates and sweet-hearts— [illegible] to their ashes, if they have any, and blessings on their gray heads [illegible]

My early recollections of Keeseville are connected with the old Baptist [illegible] on the hill; of having occasionally to be sent across the green to [illegible] Jimmy Low to come over to ring the bell, and of going carefully [illegible] I should stub my toe and forget my verses for Sunday-school. Of [illegible] to see Judge Fisk's grand carriage roll up in front of the church, [illegible] descend from his lofty perch and let down the numerous hinged [illegible] for the Judge and family to descend with dignity and grace, followed [illegible] church, if in cold weather, by a servant carrying Mrs. Fisk's foot-[illegible] which had to be replenished with live coals from the roaring wood-[illegible]

I remember the good Elder Safford who used to preach down upon us [illegible] the lofty pulpit, also his daughter Delia who used to flirt in the choir, [illegible] coaxed me into it to sing alto before my voice changed—later she had [illegible] distinguished honor of being the mother of the present Adjutant Gen-[illegible] of the state of Vermont.

Among other notable events, I remember the visit of President Martin [illegible] Buren, who was the guest of Judge Fisk at his big, square roofed [illegible] on Pleasant street, where Daniel Dodge's house now stands. The [illegible] and circumstance of that occasion impressed me greatly; that same [illegible] carriage did duty on that great day, those lofty steps being folded and [illegible] with marked emphasis and style. Of course everybody, whether [illegible] or Whig, was out to see a "truly" President, and witness the [illegible] parade in his honor. Who had ever seen such splendor of uniforms, [illegible] and flashing sabres as were displayed on that "green," as the [illegible] were marshalled, and Oh! did I not just long to grow up and wear just such brave soldier clothes, and be an officer to show off [illegible] President. (Later on, in 1865, I had the honor of doing the [illegible] presence of the noblest President we ever had, but it did not [illegible] half as much.)

The old Keeseville, its forges, rolling-mill, saw-mills, [illegible] logs above the upper dam, old woolen factory, stone stores, [illegible] sea-sicky foot-bridge, and many other old time features are [illegible] my mind, but may not be mentioned as "old" lest they should [illegible] as honored and important items belonging to the up-to-date [illegible] the Ausable.

But there is no longer a Hoffnagle's Tavern, or Forsythe's [illegible] brewery, and, probably, no other "old place" where drinks [illegible] No?

Well, good-bye to "old Keeseville!" How I would like to [illegible] new Keeseville, with its people and improvements!

GEORGE [illegible]

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 24, 1900.

* * *

AT THE END OF THE WAR

I REMEMBER the days of old, and the friends and [illegible] other and earlier years abide with me as pleasant [illegible] the chamber of my recollections, Keeseville fills a [illegible] I recall Bros. Cleaves, Beach, Briggs, Keeler, [illegible] with their families. I seem to listen to the duets of [illegible] Emma Clark, sometimes turned into a quartet by Chas. W[illegible] and Whitney Howland or Dr. Hickok (bass), with Lottie [illegible] organ. Most of these have passed on. Indeed the experiences [illegible] Keeseville pastorate, 1862-64, would fill a volume, for it was a [illegible] church agitation and of national conflict and excitement. But [illegible] "some pleasant or humorous memory" of those days, and [illegible] both invite me to the recital of one of these which is unique. I [illegible]

The Troy Conference of 1865 met in Plattsburgh in April [illegible] invited to spend Conference Sunday, April 9, with my Keeseville [illegible] (after one year's absence) and accepted the invitation, being [illegible] by my long-time friend, brother Rufus Prescott, who then lived [illegible] hill, south of the village. I preached Sunday morning; at [illegible] ducted the funeral of one Leavitt, an Andersonville prisoner [illegible]

[illegible] enroute north; and in the evening preached again on "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Ps. 30:5.) In the course of the sermon, I became prophetic and made the declaration that the nights of national distress and suspense would be succeeded by a morning of relief and joy. That night brother Prescott and I (as was our wont when together) sat up late visiting and did not retire till after midnight. We arose late next morning. After devotions we came down the hill and were soon startled by the ringing of the church bells and the sound of national music. Very soon we were met, not far from the Methodist church, by a motley procession of men and boys, carrying flags, guns and sticks or anything resembling guns, headed by drums and fifes. This irregular company was led by Hon. N. C. Boynton and postmaster Ira Smith, who were in the van, of course. So soon as they saw Mr. Prescott and myself, they shouted "Richmond is taken,—Richmond is taken!" and Messrs. Boynton and Smith grasped my arm and marched me along with the procession to the flag-staff near the bridge. There we saw a crowd of people of both sexes, and all ages, who at once yelled "Griffin!" "Griffin!" "Speech!" "speech!" There was "no discharge in that war," so I sailed in. I recall a few words about Lincoln, (vociferously cheered); then a few more about Grant and the army, (cheered more vigorously); then a few random shots, whose gist I cannot recall, at which men and boys yelled themselves hoarse, and women and girls flaunted their handkerchiefs in the air. And then—I found myself out of wind and ideas! But there was no stopping place, so I gave them pantomime. For not less than ten or fifteen minutes I made faces, opened my mouth and eyes, gesticulated with my arms, and kicked and sprawled with my legs, but said not a word! Just the same, the applause grew like mad; I could not stop, yet I knew it was all bogus and the time seemed to me like eternity. At length to my relief, the Plattsburgh stage drove up and I rushed aboard, secretly vowing never to see Keeseville again. On arriving at Plattsburgh I found the Conference wild with excitement, almost as extreme as that I had been in at Keeseville.

Five years after, in 1870, the Conference was in Burlington, and, (believing my farce undiscovered) I was again the guest of the Prescotts. On retiring late Mr. Prescott accompanied me to my chamber, and as he placed the lamp on the bureau, in that winsome way of his, said, "Do you remember when you were last here?" In a hesitating way I replied that I—thought—I—did. "Do you remember anything special?" asked he. I spoke of the funeral of Leavitt, sermon, fall of Richmond, etc. Then came the crash. "Do you remember your speech at the flag-staff? They say—and the Keeseville paper so reported—you beat yourself, and it was one of the biggest speeches of the war; but," said he, "what bothers me is, I stood close to your shoulder and, after a few words, I could hear [illegible] Enough to say, after a good deal of badinage, I told him if he [illegible] give me away, I'd confess the whole, and I did! I have no [illegible] make of this phenomenal speech (on which I have a patent) [illegible] that we were frenzied by the rebound from the terrible [illegible] those awful weeks—to victory. If I could be with you, I could [illegible] in action better than I can relate it in writing. Suffice it to say I [illegible] for telling it at Port Henry dedication in 1874, (I think) and it [illegible] church. It is still one of my chief field pieces—on occasion.

Long live Keeseville and its Methodist church, and may [illegible] all!

Sincerely yours,

(REV.) THOMAS A. [illegible]

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LETTER FROM REV. S. D. MOXLEY

I HAVE been requested to write something about Keeseville [illegible] days of my residence there. Well, what shall I say? [illegible] come crowding each other so thick and fast, and what I [illegible] also be short.

Ah, how I would like to indulge in reminiscences [illegible] people who received me so kindly and lovingly in the [illegible] ministry; who made their homes my home in such a full [illegible] home!

Both from the members of the church and the society I [illegible] overwhelming acts of kindness that I often felt I had the [illegible] in the world.

I would like to speak of many by name, but all were so [illegible] and so considerate, that I will not attempt to make any [illegible] so short an article so hurriedly prepared some loved [illegible] omitted.

It is not to be wondered at that such a church should have [illegible] of the ablest and best Baptist ministers of today to fill [illegible] prominent pulpits in the denomination—Rev. W. C. [illegible] of Randolph, Mass.; Rev. B. G. Boardman, of the First [illegible] Newport, R. I.; and Rev. M. D. Fuller, of East Greenwich, [illegible] has been delightful to recall the days when these were [illegible] helpers, and to remember that two of them were of the [illegible] first administered the ordinance of baptism.

I would not forget to mention the royal welcome with which the church and society received the bride I brought to Keeseville from an eastern city, opening to her their homes and hearts as they had opened them to me three years before.

Great changes have come during these years of separation. How many of those who lived to make the days of earth catch something of the radiance of the days of heaven have gone to heaven? Many are now nearing the gates; may we all meet there. S. D. MOXLEY.

* * *

A ROYAL DINNER PARTY

"HOW easily, how quickly it has all come about," I said as I read your letter asking me to give some reminiscences of Keeseville, "that I am looked upon as an old citizen, with memories of the past rather than with dreams of the future, or achievements of the present." The strangest of it all is, that it is true, and I shall not deny that I carry about with me a whole heart full of the most delicious memories, and tenderest recollections of what must, I suppose, now be called the old times of Keeseville. And I have no doubt all Keeseville knows that I cherish these memories as among my most delightful possessions, and am going to carry them along with me till I can talk them all over face to face with a host of loving friends who have gone before, to the brighter land beyond.

But the trouble just now is, what shall I say, or what shall I leave out. What would you like most to have me talk about? For I feel that I can, as the saying is "chink in almost anywhere." Shall I tell about the church life of thirty-five years ago, or the social life, the school life, the business life, or the persons who gave prominence to Keeseville in those and succeeding days? Shall I take you to the cemetery, and ask you to stand with me again beside the graves of those we have dearly loved? Shall I bid you to the wedding feasts we have together eaten, or the sleigh rides we enjoyed, to Mr. Goodrich's, and Lathrop Pope's? Do you want to come again to my tin wedding, and rehearse the dark schemes which were proposed for the deception of the unsuspecting couple who were spending the day with good Deacon Adgate? Tell me what you want, and I will pour it out to you from a heart that is as full of diverse material as is a conjurer's bottle when he pours out the liquids the drinker most desires. "Just what you please." Ah, is that what you say? Well then, if I am too garrulous or too sober, if my word takes you far away [illegible] just now out of sight you must not be surprised. For [illegible] recollections of the past, and in my looking to what is [illegible] worlds, as we call them, are getting to be strangely intermingled [illegible] to live with eyes open to what is there, as well as to what is [illegible]

My acquaintance with Keeseville began more than a half [illegible] It was very slight, but it was of such a character as enables [illegible] some of the names and conditions of those days.

My brother began his medical practice at Clintonville, [illegible] wood, about that time and from him I learned some of the [illegible] life in the Ausable valley in those days. When I first came [illegible] road from Port Kent to Keeseville I found many things just [illegible] described them. The tavern under the hill at Port Kent [illegible] recognized; the horses drank from the always flowing [illegible] road side, as I expected they would. And Taggard's Hotel [illegible] all its power of welcome, while the stone church by the river's [illegible] its tower toward heaven in all its massiveness, if not its beauty, [illegible] today.

The first time I ever stopped at Port Kent was when I [illegible] man in college. At the close of the year in 1858 we felt [illegible] our hard year of college work was done that the class [illegible] must “have a time” bigger than the small state of Vermont [illegible] So we went to Plattsburgh and made the whole night [illegible] “Fouquet's Hotel,” than which, in those days, there was no [illegible] Albany more renowned for its good fare. And there, when [illegible] the usual landing at Port Kent, I have no doubt I obtained my [illegible] of Burroughs' Hotel and the portly form of Mr. Colvin and [illegible] and his far renowned stage.

But I want, just for a moment, to take you back to a [illegible] years before 1858. My own memory is somewhat unreliable for [illegible] date, for I do not yet accept the doctrine of the pre-existence [illegible] souls before coming into a conscious earthly state. But I [illegible] will have any one with you who traded with “Reuben [illegible] he opened a shop near what is now the French Catholic church [illegible] any one of you ever buy one of the “Windsor” chairs or “[illegible] or high post bedsteads which “Joseph Brown” advertised [illegible] Keeseville Herald. Did any of you ever drink a cup of coffee [illegible] Brown's Coffee House?” And did you transfer your trade to [illegible] Low” when he succeeded to the business of “Reuben [illegible] anybody remember “Parley Toll” and “Platt VanDusen” [illegible] used to get their letters at the Keeseville post office? But [illegible]

[illegible] ask me in return if I remember the parties I have named. You know [illegible] still a preacher and have the right to ask a lot of questions, every [illegible] if I choose, which I cannot answer.

But this rambling will never do. Some day when I go back to Keeseville, if I ever do again, I mean to ask the friends, old and new, to come some evening for a good long talk about old times. And then I will just [illegible] myself loose and bring out a host of old memories.

But really I started out to tell you of a royal “Dinner Party” which [illegible] attended in Keeseville 24 years ago on the 25th of March. It was held [illegible] the “Ausable House,” then under the management of Smith Pine, and [illegible] in honor of Major Powers and his 85th birthday. Where Major Powers was born I cannot tell. But for nearly forty years he was a citizen of Keeseville and for the most of that time one of its leading business men. My own acquaintance with him was of a most pleasing sort. [illegible] used to meet him often at the home of his daughter in Peru, for the last [illegible] years of my Keeseville pastorate were almost as much associated with the church at Peru as at Keeseville. This dinner was arranged by [illegible] sons, possibly by his son Heman G. more than by the rest of the family. But they all came on from their distant homes in Illinois, Heman [illegible] Frank M., Frederick H., and Earl S, and as this dinner was one to which none of the gentler sex were admitted, the daughter was represented by her husband, Thomas B. Watson, of Peru.

Besides the children of the honored guest there were twenty of the older residents of the village, selected, I suppose, because of their intimate association with Mr. Powers. Why I was invited I never asked—the prospect of a good dinner has always been so attractive to me that I never made it a habit to inquire as to the motives of the host. If I may be allowed to guess at this late day why I should have been so honored, I may be allowed to suggest that I was the youngest one of the honored company and that there must have been some unseen presiding genius who foresaw that, years afterward, this dinner would be made the subject of a paper to be read before an intelligent Keeseville audience, and that with two exceptions I should be the only one of the Keeseville guests who would at this time be able to communicate with an audience by means of a typewriter or pen. I am not so vain as to think that, having accumulated such an amazing quantity of wisdom as was to be embraced in that company, the honored projector of the gathering desired to complete his work by providing a fair amount of beauty to accompany so much wisdom for I did not at that time, nor have I at any succeeding time, ever allowed myself to believe that I possessed any specially noticeable amount of either wisdom or beauty. So I shall continue to believe that the selection of guests was carried on according to some principle to me then and now unknown.

The mention of the names and age of these parties will at once convince a resident of Keeseville that I am right when I speak of them as both an honored and an honorable company. There was, in the first place, Edmund Kingsland, whose age at that time was 72, Solomon Cleaves [illegible], N. J. Macomber 71, O. D. Peabody 71, Lathrop Pope 73, Silas Arnold [illegible], Charles Thomas 79, Richard Keese 81, Nelson Kingsland was there and only 66, Artemas White 67, Wendell Lansing 68, Mumford R. Bissell [illegible], George Adgate 66, and Richard Hoag just 60. Then came some of the younger boys, though it was not noticed as the day went on that they were any more frisky than the older ones present. Ahira Beach was only [illegible], W. W. Tabor had acquired the ripe age of 56, Luther Whitney was only 51, and our beloved and honored Dr. Houghton was only an honest and fairly grown up boy of 49, while Willis Mould was as gay as any one of the party, though he was of the demure age of 53, having already lived more than half a century.

The sons of their father were there in full force. Heman G. at [illegible], Frederick H. at 51, Frank M. at 47, and Earl S. at 45. The only real youngster, or to use the exceedingly expressive language of the [illegible] century, the only genuine "kid" present was the pastor of the Presbyterion church, who would certainly have hidden the fact of his extreme youth if some of the guests had not proposed that the ages of the persons present should be noted, when he was at once obliged to confess, though with a shamefacedness becoming to youth when in the presence of honored age, that he was only 41. But he wishes it now to be distinctly understood, and he makes record of it here for the benefit of anyone who may at some future time find himself in such circumstances, that the youthfulness which he then possessed, and which he could not deny, has gradually worn away, and that he is now no longer in danger of being the youngest man at a commemorative dinner, and that if he was ever invited to such an occasion on account of his possession of a beauty supposed to be the peculiar possession of youth, he is no longer in any danger of such a fate.

As to the dinner, I may be allowed to say that the guests were invited at half past two in the afternoon and, with the usual impetuosity of gay and inexperienced diners-out, were in such haste for the table that they were invited to the dining room in fifteen minutes after their arrival. It was not noticed in the march to that room that there were any "halt" or "lame," while at the table none but a veteran observer could have distinguished between the ability of the oldest and the youngest to dispose of the contents of an elaborate "bill of fare" in the most becoming and at the same time vigorous manner.

I have a copy of that "Menu" before me as I write, and the reading awakens the tenderest recollection of the "Saranac Lake trout" and other toothsome viands which I ate not only at the table of Landlord Pine in Keeseville, with my dear friend of those days, Silas Arnold, but at "Martin's" of Saranac Lake fame in those days when I was more than once at that paradise of fishermen as Mr. Arnold's guest. And I recall with the greatest of pleasure the vision which I had of quiet, restful content, exhibited to me in my restlessness, when Mr. Arnold, having lighted his pipe and taken his seat in the boat with his guide, would bid me do the same with my oarsman, while he was wandering as he would have me wander wherever fançy might direct in search of the elusive fish as they sported in the Saranac waters. Ah, they were golden days—and they will never come back. The lake is there in all its beauty, the mountains are there in all their mightiness, the forests are still skirting the hillsides and the waters are forever playing amid the sunshine; but the loving hearts which beat within their fleshly covering are gone, the guide and the host are gone.

The warm hand-clasp does not come from the mountains as it came from the dear friends who gathered at the table on that day. If I want to see their faces I look within; if I want to hear their voices I come to myself. For down in the deeps of a human soul their names are written, their faces are photographed, their hands meet mine, their words respond to my words, and I hear in the stillness of my room, broken only by the click of the typewriter, the old words which tell me that love is undying, and that hearts once bound on earth, are bound for the eternal ages which lie, as we say, just out of sight, but which I am getting to know are after all very near.

You see I could not close without just a bit of preaching. The old habit is still upon me, and I presume it will remain with me till the last one of that company is gathered home to the life which lies just beyond. Of that number only two of the Keeseville guests remain to hear the words I am now writing: Luther Whitney and William Tabor. I do not know whether the sons of Major Powers are all gone or not. His funeral I attended before I left Keeseville. Silas Arnold, George Adgate and Chas. Thomas, I had looked upon their still faces before I left Keeseville. The others have followed rapidly on.

But I am taking time which others may claim. The memories are many and are precious. They are too large to be exhausted at this time. They belong to years which can never be surpassed for earnest work, enduring love, thorough faith and abiding hope. The old memories will become new, not much farther along. The old joys, or better, will come back again; for we are going home.

Affectionately yours,

H. E. BUTLER.

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LETTER FROM REV. J. J. NOR

TO THE KING'S DAUGHTERS:

If it were practicable it would give me much pleasure to be with you on your "Evening of Memories," but will write what I would say if present.

I have many cherished recollections of my Keeseville pastorate; while it was one of much toil, particularly the second year, in securing funds for the building of the new church, and other work connected therewith.

The fire, which consumed the old edifice, broke out Saturday night near the close of my first year as pastor, and by daylight the house the fathers worshipped in was in ruins. That seemed a dire calamity, for, while about twenty buildings were burned, most of the property loss fell upon our congregation. But there was shown such noble, generous and practical sympathy by members of the other congregations, and such hearty co-operative self-sacrifice by our members that the two following years were full of enjoyment.

I had but just returned to the parsonage from the fire when brothers Butler and Matthews, pastors of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches, came in and assured me that we would be welcome to any use of their churches we might desire at other than their times of regular service. One of the largest subscriptions for rebuilding was given by a member of another congregation—about half the amount raised for the new church came from adherents of other churches.

When brother Matthews took his vacation, the summer after the fire he turned his congregation over to me and I occupied his pulpit, with a double pastorate till his return. In all the years of my ministry I have never had quite such Christian, brotherly relations with associate pastors as in Keeseville. We worked together in the unity of the Spirit.

The only instance I have known in my pastorate of a sermon chiefly prepared for one man resulting in his immediate conversion was in Keeseville. It was thus: A regular attendant of the morning service, whose wife was a member of my church, had been upon my heart. "I sighted my gun upon my knees," the shot struck the mark. Father Cleaves sat near him and noticed the result. He asked him to go to his class-meeting, which met at close of sermon—that was the beginning of a new life.

I have never been the pastor of a man of more blessed memory than father Cleaves. His occasional "Amens" during the sermon were always an inspiration to me. Such men greatly enrich the kingdom of God.

Thinking of the blessed dead reminds me of brother Clapp. It took me three years to win him to a public profession of Jesus as his Savior, though he was the best man outside of Christ's church I ever knew. The last Sabbath before the Conference session which closed my term I baptized and received him into the church. I never performed a like service that gave me so much joy. Father Cleaves and brother Clapp have been years among the redeemed.

I think also of two sweet spirits among the early crowned, Ellen and Hattie Shaw. It seemed to me that Jesus wanted new jewels for His diadem when He took them to heaven.

But my memories of the Keeseville pastorate take a deeper tinge of sadness at the thought of her who shared my toils and joys. I think few pastors have been blessed with such a help-mate, so self-sacrificing, so capable, so winning. She fastened he friends to her with "hooks of steel," and made her home the sweetest spot of earth to husband and children. This is my first charge in 38 years without her, and I greatly miss her in my work as well as home. She went from the presidency of a circle of the King's Daughters, which she had formed in Rutland, when the King called her to be "with Him in His beauty."

May you have much success in doing the King's work in Keeseville.

Very cordially,

J. J. NOR.

Waterford, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1900.

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LETTER FROM REV. BREWER G. BOARDMAN

TO THE KING'S DAUGHTERS:

Your complimentary invitation to contribute some reminiscences of Keeseville life is highly appreciated.

This response cannot lay claim to the distinction of "ye olden tales," inasmuch as its auther did not make his advent among the inhabitants of

Keeseville till October 8, 1852. The tale may be old, however, from the mention of things very familiar to many. Childhood memories of home, playmates and school friends abide with sweet fragrance as "fond recollection presents them to view." Pleasant reveries make real many a bygone day of sports on river, lake, plains, hills and mountains; while narrow escapes of life from boating, swimming, coasting, scaling the rocky walls of the Chasm and old Poke-o-Moonshine mountain, even now send a little chill down the spine of memory.

There were early aspirations for mercantile life, with an outside cellar way (rent free) as the place of business, a quart of molasses made into honest candy and a half dozen lemons not over strongly flavoring a jar of ice water, comprising the stock in trade. The receipts were old scrap-iron gathered from Dan to Beer-sheba (and no questions asked), a few eggs the legitimate (?) commission of some boy whose fond mother forgot to pay him for keeping the hens fed and watered— and an occasional stray penny from some highly prosperous boy or over-indulged girl.

The golden opportunities of school days were not too highly appreciated at this period, and patient teachers were sorely tried in temper with such boyish perversity. Would that we could remove such records from memory's pages!

When the bugles of war sounded in 1861 and that fateful shot in Charleston harbor, April 12, woke our land from its long dream of peace and sent its echoes reverberating through every hamlet, my boy heart felt its first pulsation of patriotism and enthusiastically exulted in Keeseville's royal response to her country's call.

When the mature men, the young men, and the large boys went out from among us to defend the Old Flag, how great a disappointment dwelt in the hearts of stay-at-home boys because they could not go with their fathers, brothers and companions. The writer experienced such a regret because he could not accompany his only brother, Asa P. Boardman, in Capt. Geo. Beach's company of light cavalry.

Bitter for many hearts is the memory of those days! Soon were the hands of anxious mothers, wives and sisters called into patriotic service preparing bandages, scraping lint and in sending delicacies to the sick and wounded at the front. Keeseville made her sacrifice and bore her measure of sorrow in desolate homes to which her heroes never returned alive.

As fresh as yesterday abides the memory of that sad day when Col. Thomas, having fallen for the flag, was brought home for a patriot's burial. A great throng of tearful men and women filled the Congregational church and the street in front, so that boys could not so much as look in where the hero lay victorious. As his body was tenderly borne to the silent village, Evergreen cemetery, the writer revered the very ground over which he was carried because he was a soldier.

Memorable indeed to my heart is the day of Lee's surrender, April 9, 1865. The Academy students were informed, by the patriotic principal that when the church bells proclaimed war news recitations would be suspended without ceremony. The first stroke of the bells sent the boys out of the windows as effectually as if Lee's armed men had been entering. But the girls, in good form, went decorously out of the door. Historical accuracy perhaps requires this explanation—the girls' department was on the second floor. Down the hill we went on a double-quick and joined the crowd of men already filling the streets. Armed with sticks from a convenient wood-pile behind one of the stores, and led by an extemporised band, a triumphal procession was organized amid cheers of victorious joy. Wonderful to relate, the wood never returned to its native pile but went over the railing of the stone bridge. Perhaps that rash act of the boys may be pardoned at this date; but it was really fun to see those sticks make the wild plunge into the river and float down toward the Chasm.

Some doubtless will recall the unique telegram sent by Mr. Samuel Ames announcing the victory. It was placarded in large letters on the old brass cannon which belched forth its fiery congratulations from the south bank of the river, near the old stone factory. It was photographed upon memory that day (a snap shot) and is vividly in view now. Thus it read:

"Lee has surrendered,
Richmond's in flames;
Glory be to God!
From, Samuel Ames."

Six days later came the appalling news that president Lincoln had been shot by an assassin. How deep the gloom which settled over the land! When the memorial service was held in the old M. E. church strong men wept in each other's embrace, and the heart which, in these lines, breathes its affectionate regard for old Keeseville, received its first impressions of the public appreciation of the life and services of a great and good man.

The lessons of these days were valuable and have not been without influence in the life of at least one Keeseville boy. But there are even sweeter and more precious memories of the dear old birth-place, because unworthy purposes found therein a grave, and higher aspirations took their place in the soul.

In May, 1868, life was enriched by the birth from above, and in July of that year a true spiritual home was found in the dear old Baptist church of Keeseville, then under the care of Rev. S. D. Moxley, her devoted and faithful pastor. Myron D. Fuller, now Rev., and Miss Louisa Jones were my companions in baptism and church membership. The kind encouragement given by the pastor and his faithful workers was most helpful in the formation of Christian character.

The names of Deacon James Hindes, Deacon Daniel Dodge, William Taylor, N. C. Boynton and those of Kingsland, Baber, Thomas, Rowe, Willard will ever remain fragrant in connection with the activities and interests of the Baptist church.

Permit also a loving tribute to the memory of the best of Sunday-school teachers, Mrs. L. A. Baber, consecrated to her God, faithful to her Christian trust, tactful in her talk to timid, tender hearts, she accomplished much for God in a discouraging and limited field. From her Bible class, never large in numbers, went forth to the work of the Gospel ministry, Rev. W. C. McAllester, D. D., Randolph, Mass., Rev. E. B. Jones, D. D., Owatonna, Minn., Rev. Myron D. Fuller, East Greenwich, R. I., and the writer, Brewer G. Boardman, Newport, R. I. To the mission fields of India went Mrs. Lydia Jones Campbell, and to the helpful ministries of "Mistress of the Manse," Mrs. Ollie Boynton Swift, Chicago, Ill., and Mrs. Laura H. Hindes Boardman, Newport, R. I. Another member of her class having the ministry in view died while a student in Keeseville Academy in 1869, viz., Roswell H. Boardman.

In 1870 the writer's citizenship in Keeseville practically ceased, as a course of eight years study identified him with the life of another village. But occasional glimpses of the old birthplace and welcome visits of the Essex County Republican, while revealing changed conditions, also give evidence of hopeful progress in the educational, philanthropic, business and religious interests of the village.

May the noble and worthy cause for which you solicit these reminiscences find enthusiastic friends and liberal supporters till your high ambition shall materialize in a well equipped and well endowed library and reading room, a veritable university of sound learning for the sons and daughters of beautiful Keeseville. What monument more grand with which to dedicate and distinguish the annals of your worthy history at the dawning of the twentieth century! Build it without fail.

A personal, sacred reminiscence, dearest among Keeseville memories, must close this letter. A little black-eyed, black-haired maiden, granddaughter of a good deacon, sought a home in the Baptist church contemporaneously with the writer. As new members each looked after the other, extended welcomes, and found the "gates of Zion pleasanter than the dwellings of Jacob," when the question of life's work besieged faltering heart and mind, she helped to decision and aspiration for what seemed the impossible—a college course of study. One beautiful May day, 1870,

strolling down the shining Ausable, a voice whispered "the river of life shall be one though the shores down which they walk be two," and September 5, 1876, prophecy became fulfillment. The black-eyed, black-haired matron still walks with me, my best helper in the King's work, while two sons accompany with young manhood's cheering steps.

In loving remembrance of Keeseville days, faithful friends, and hallowed experiences.

One of her grateful sons,
BREWER G. BOARDMAN,
Newport, R. I. Pastor First Baptist Church.

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REMINISCENCE

MY EARLIEST recollection of church life in the "First Baptist church" in Keeseville, N. Y., goes back to the ministry of Elder Cheshire (the exact date I am unable to record) I can only remember his stately manliness both in the pulpit and out of it.

Then came the pastorate of Elder Bigelow, whose sweet spirit could not help but impress one with the gentleness of the Master whom he served and the gospel he preached.

I never read I Cor. 15:40; "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, but the glory of the celestial is one and the glory of the terrestrial is another," without calling to mind Elder Dodge, who stood before the people one Sunday in cold weather with buffalo overcoat on, and poured out the truth from these words, coming as they did from one of God's veterans on the borders of the grave, like an echo from the past, that we might trust for the future.

But more particularly do I recall the pastorate of Rev. S. D. Moxley, for it was during the winter which preceeded his coming in April, 1868, that a season of spiritual refreshing was experienced in the Methodist church, and through the earnest preaching of Rev. James Edgerton and prayers of brothers Cleaves and Keeler, together with many others, that I gave myself to Christ. And in July, 1868, Miss Jones, Brewer G. Boardman, (now pastor at Newport, R. I.) and myself were baptized by Rev. S. D. Moxley, the first candidates of his ministry, since which time there has always been a strong tie of Christian love existing between us. (May I say just here that a pleasant reunion was held at my home only this last Monday, July 2d, Rev. and Mrs. Moxley and Rev. and Mrs. Boardman being present. The exchange of pleasant remembrances of Keeseville friends made the day very delightful after thirty years of changes.)

Mr. Moxley's excellent sermons, his helpful presentation of the truth in the prayer meetings, his genial manner and kind consideration of young Christians are all cherished in my memory as becoming a model pastor. It was during his pastorate that I left my home in Keeseville, a boy of seventeen, with the influence and Christian example of my pastor and his flock, the Keeseville Baptist church, which never-dying influence has many times in my life grasped the helm and aided in shaping my character and course.

I can never forget Mrs. Thomas' consideration of us boys. She was always faithful in attendance coming from her home at Port Duglass, knowing there would be the "seventhly" to every sermon and that we boys were expected to be in the church and sit as quietly as restless youngsters could, with the occasional nap and startled dream when the preacher would give special emphasis to some portion of his sermon probably for the benefit of sleepy boys. Dear Mrs. Thomas seemed to realize we had appetites, and I can picture her in my memory sitting at the entrance to the vestry with open bag, giving out doughnuts, cookies and apples to ensure our good nature during Sunday-school session. The patience of faithful teachers was severely tried by boys who were as full of mischief as a paper is of pins, and apparently giving very little heed to their instructors. But although these teachers have gone to glory and their instructions were seemingly unheeded, yet today remains the influence of at least one dear servant of God, faithful in Christ Jesus, who never taught a lesson without it all centered around her Redeemer and never closed the lesson without the amen, namely, a personal invitation to live for Christ. I cannot help but believe that that dear soul must know that today three of these boys are preaching the gospel of Him so faithfully taught by their teacher.

Mrs. Baber—I remember distinctly Mr. Baber, Mr. Lansing and N. C. Boynton as efficient superintendents of the Sunday-school.

Also the prayer meeting talks, the yea, yea and nay, nay of deacon Hindes and testimonies of deacons Dodge and Scribner, Mrs. Baber and others; the prayer meeting singing of N. C. Boynton. "Say, poor sinner, lovest thou me?" and "I'm a pilgrim, I'm a stranger" by Ella Boynton Taylor. I recall the early days of my choir singing beside N. C. Boynton and Mr. Royal Boynton, when the organ and choir were back in the gallery; and how N. C. Boynton taught me to sing old "Brattle Street." I can even remember blowing the organ and forgetting the pump handle in the midst of an anthem, and the astonishment to the player,

causing a frown upon her brow and a hurrying away from service by the blow boy.

My friends, time fails me to mention the many forms and countenances of those whom I see, in my memory of thirty years ago, sitting here and there in the pews. Many of them are long since gone to heaven, yet "The memory of the just is blessed, and the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

MYRON D. FULLER.

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LETTER FROM REV. WARREN H. LANDON, D. D.

PROFESSOR OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY IN THE SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT SAN ANSELMO, CAL.

I SPENT two happy years in Keeseville, from 1874 to 1876, as principal of the Union Free School. The old Academy building on the hill was the centre of my labors if not the centre of attraction; yet it had many attractions. For very many of my pupils I formed a strong attachment and often think of them with deep interest.

Rev. H. E. Butler was my pastor. What good sermons he preached and what an influence for good he exerted in the community. I was thinking of studying for the ministry; I think I could have decided the question more easily had I believed I could ever preach such good sermons as Mr. Butler preached.

Keeseville had nothing in climate or flowers to compare with this beautiful section of California, and yet it had its own peculiar attractiveness. Nothing could surpass the beauties of the autumn. What could be more delightful than a row up the Ausable river after autumn leaves or a walk through the neighboring hills gorgeously clothed. I used to pretend to hunt partridges but it was the scenery I enjoyed most of all.

I recall my first experience in hunting on those hills. It was in company with my beloved friend, Henry Finch, who knew and loved every foot of ground along the brooks and among the hills for many miles around. I borrowed Mr. Martin Finch's gun. Being quite an amateur sportsman I carried my gun with great care lest I should kill my comrade or myself. How near I came to shooting several partridges that day—but they would not sit still quite long enough! It was a great day, but when evening came I had not even fired my gun—I then learned of Mr. Finch that it was not loaded!

when the time came that he could no longer work he would like to come back here and end his days among his old friends; and it seemed as if that dream might be realized, but it was not to be.

One day he was about his work, though suffering and hardly able to accomplish it; then a week of serious illness, with anxious friends about him; and then the noble heart was still; the life on earth was ended, and he had passed to the reward of one who had lived a truly good life, that of loving service for his fellow men. It is no exaggeration to say that there was mourning in hundreds of households. As he lay those last days before he was carried to his final resting place, many came to look upon his still face, and the sobs of people utterly unknown to his family were heard through the house.

He has gone from our earthly sight, but the influence of such a life lives on to make better the lives and hearts of those who tarry a little longer. I think those who knew him best will agree with me in thinking that he was worthy to rank with Ian McClaren's Doctor McClure. I remember of one who always spoke of him as "The Beloved Physician." He was beloved in the hearts of all his friends.

It is a rare privilege to have known such a man. It will be long before we look upon his like again.

N. A. K.

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"GOD'S ACRE"

EVERGREEN CEMETERY, KEESEVILLE

THUS, in these years, God's acre grew
In beauty and the village pride;
A lakelet from the marsh redeemed,
While pine slopes on it's either side
Were richly carpeted in green
Where native and domestic flowers
Bedecked it, and the pattern changed
In hue with all the changing hours.

God's acre! Aye, His very own.
Inalienate His title stood;
The lease hold only vested by
The father for His children's good,
With but this one proviso, that
The rich should here hold nothing best,
Nor poor the worst—all common ground,
Else must its name be changed, God dispossessed.

More, this should be a lesson-leaf
To teach His own, that Heaven's plan
Was ever that the natural should
Develop the divine in man,
And be uplifted, not put down;
He must not grovel, but aspire,
And say, as might the blushing rose,
"My sweetness, Lord, is Thy sweet-briar."

How great a distance may be bridged
With but a bit of loving art!
And yet no more than moral change
Is wrought by simple show of heart.
The village burying-ground had been
A dreary, fear-inspiring waste,
To be avoided; now all changed
By help of heart and touch of taste.

Which made of it a blessed place,
As if God's blessing sanctified
This bit of woodland—bridged the gulf
Which heretofore seemed to divide
The family. Far more, it spanned
That infinite—that larger space
Between the now and then; and made
Man's parting now to be his trysting-place

Where vows are plighted, pledges made;
The past with all its slips reviewed;
Where larger, fuller lives are planned,
And consecrations old renewed.
And why not? Where could human soul
Find a diviner soil below
To transplant seedlings from above
Than in God's acre, where life's best plants grow?

BREWER MATTOCKS, M. D.

"The Seville," St. Paul, Minn.